WE TOOK MOST OF WHAT WE COULD CARRY AWAY FROM NOVA'S CRYPT.

WE WEREN'T SURE WHAT THE CAROUSEL WANTED, BUT WE FIGURED WE WOULD FIND OUT WITH HELP FROM NOVA'S OLD NOTES.

IF WE KNEW *WHAT* IT WAS AFTER, WE MIGHT JUST FIND A WAY AROUND IT.

WE COPIED DOWN THE SYMBOLS IN THE CRYPT

AS BEST WE COULD. MAYBE THEY WOULD COME IN HANDY, AT LEAST TO PROTECT OUR OWN APARTMENT.

WHILE WE WORKED, ALL I COULD THINK OF WAS HOW NOVA MIGHT HAVE DIED FOR NOTHING.

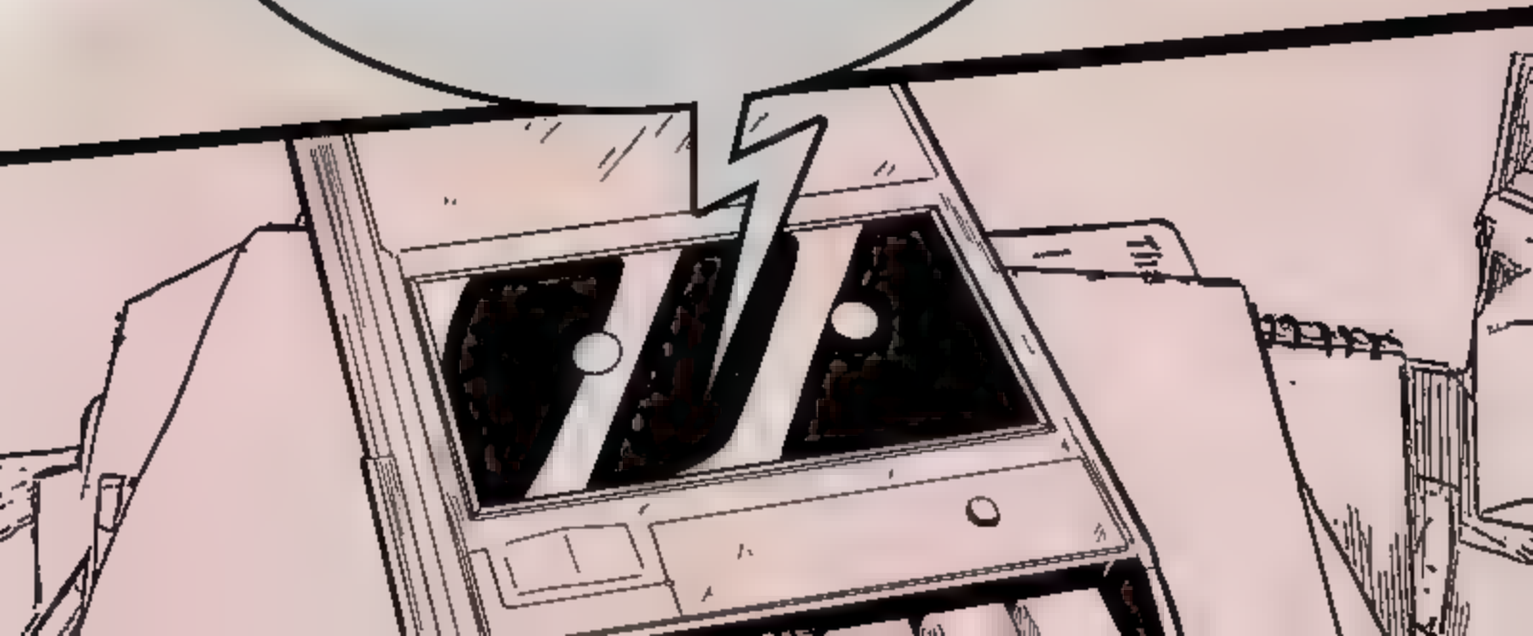
I SWORE THAT THE SAME WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO MY FRIENDS...

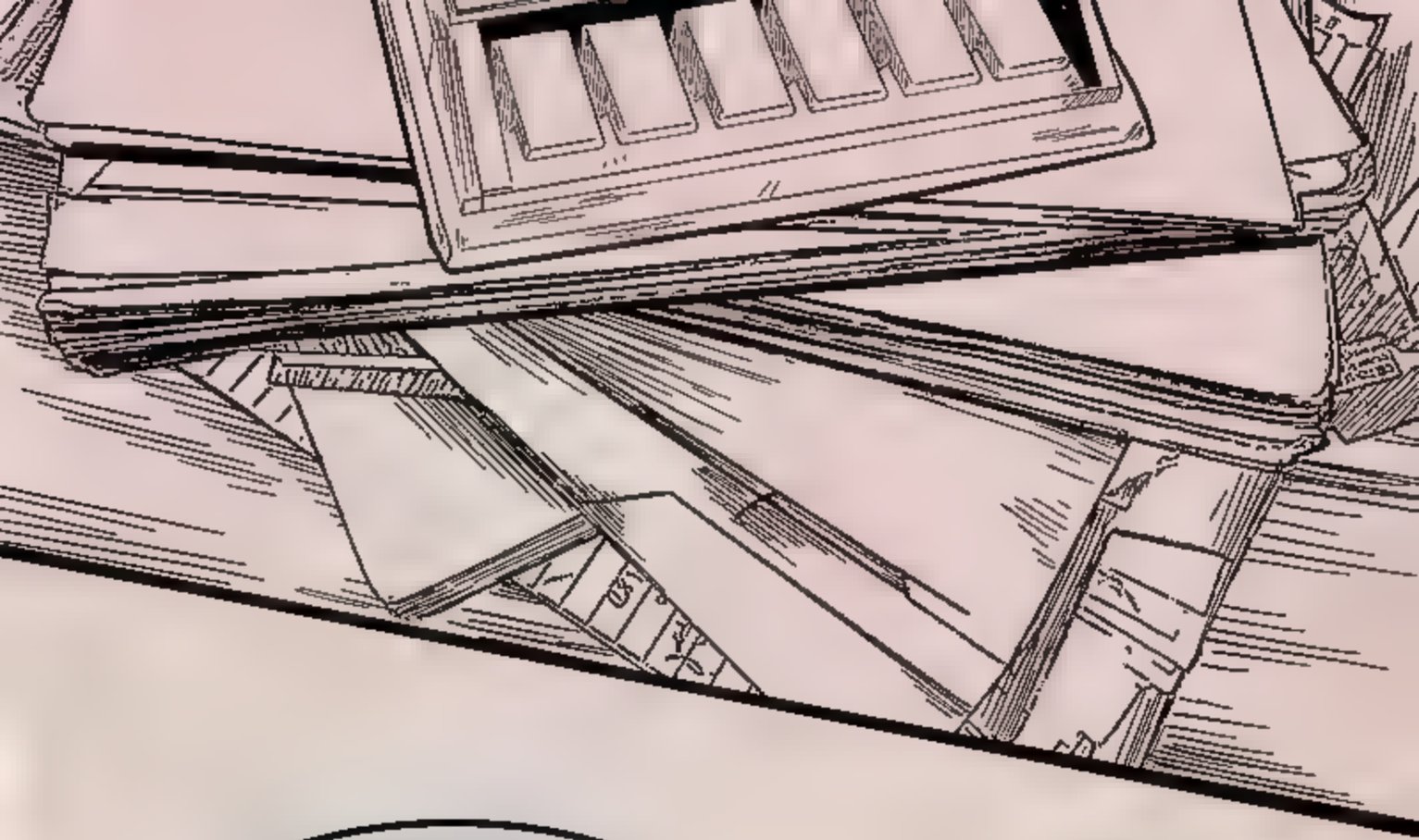
...EVEN IF I HAD TO CLIMB BACK DOWN THAT MINESHAFT MYSELF.

PART ONE

...HAVE NARROWED DOWN WHAT I BELIEVE ARE THE CRITERIA USED BY THE CREATURE TO CHOOSE A "HELPER."

THE TARGET IS OF AN ARTISTIC OR UNUSUAL MINDSET...





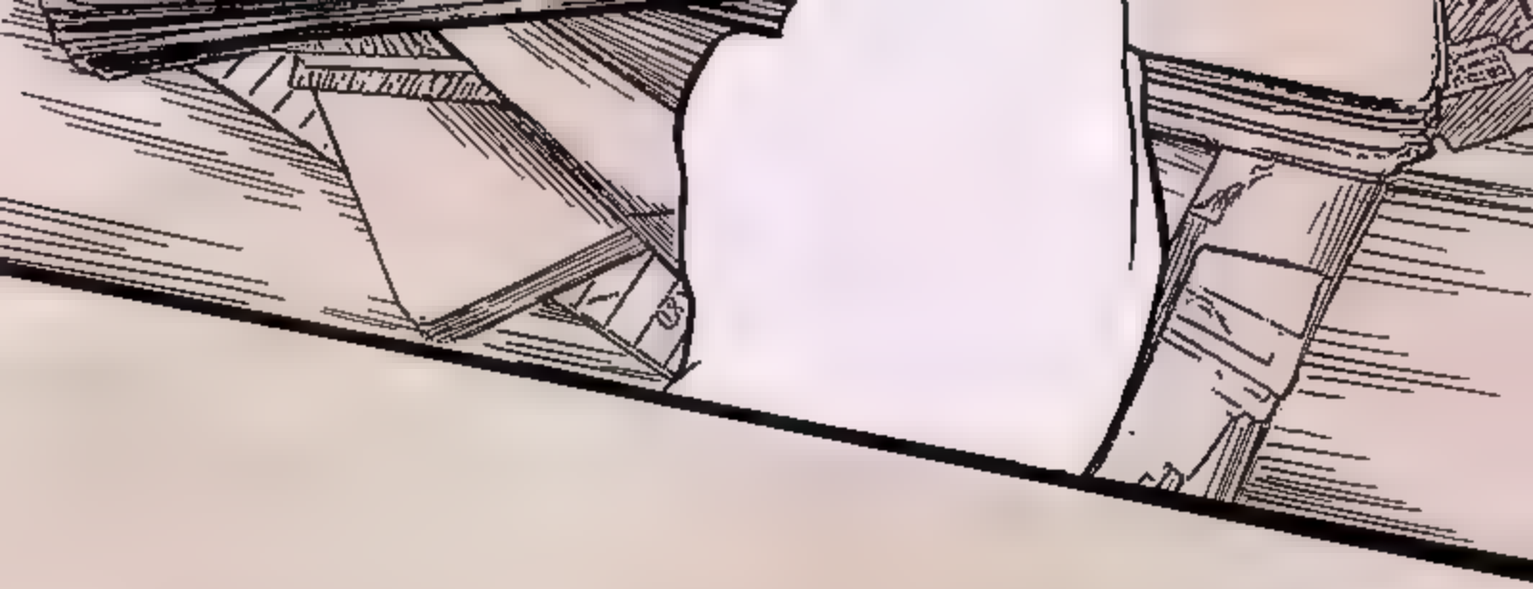
...TARGET IS ALONE AT THE TIME...

...AND FEELS A HEAVY SENSE OF GUILT OR SOME RESPONSIBILITY

FOR OTHERS.

THERE MAY BE MORE, BUT I HAVEN'T YET FO-

CLICK



WELL.

SOUNDS LIKE THE ENTITY HAS BEEN TARGETING

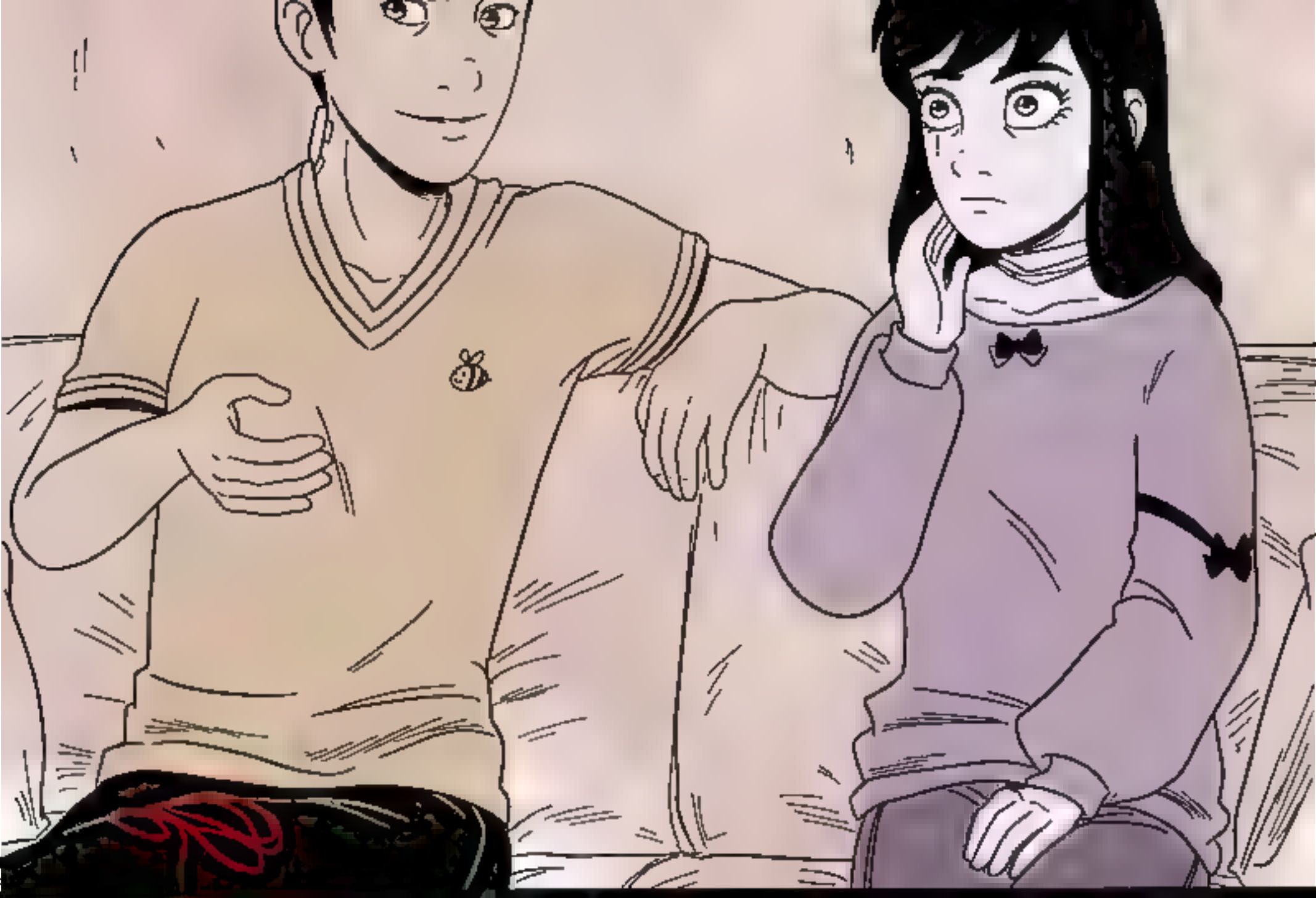
US FOR A WHILE
NOW.

THAT LIST COULD FIT ANY ONE OF US.

YEAH...

EXCEPT FOR FRANKIE, CUZ HER ART SUCKS.

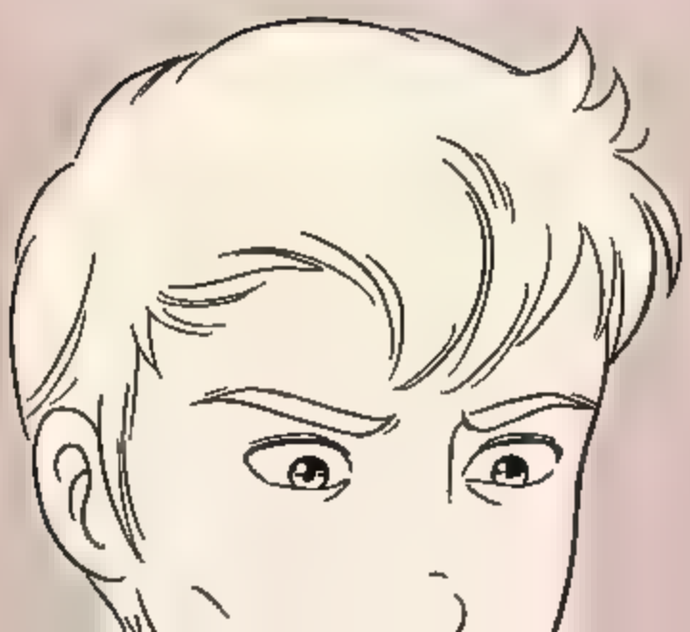
WUH...



I'M A GRAPHIC ARTIST, YOU DOORKNOB!

I DESIGN BROCHURES!

BOO, THAT'S NOT ART.



AND YOUR CHICKENSCRATCH TATTOOS *ARE*?

THAT CAT ONE LOOKS LIKE

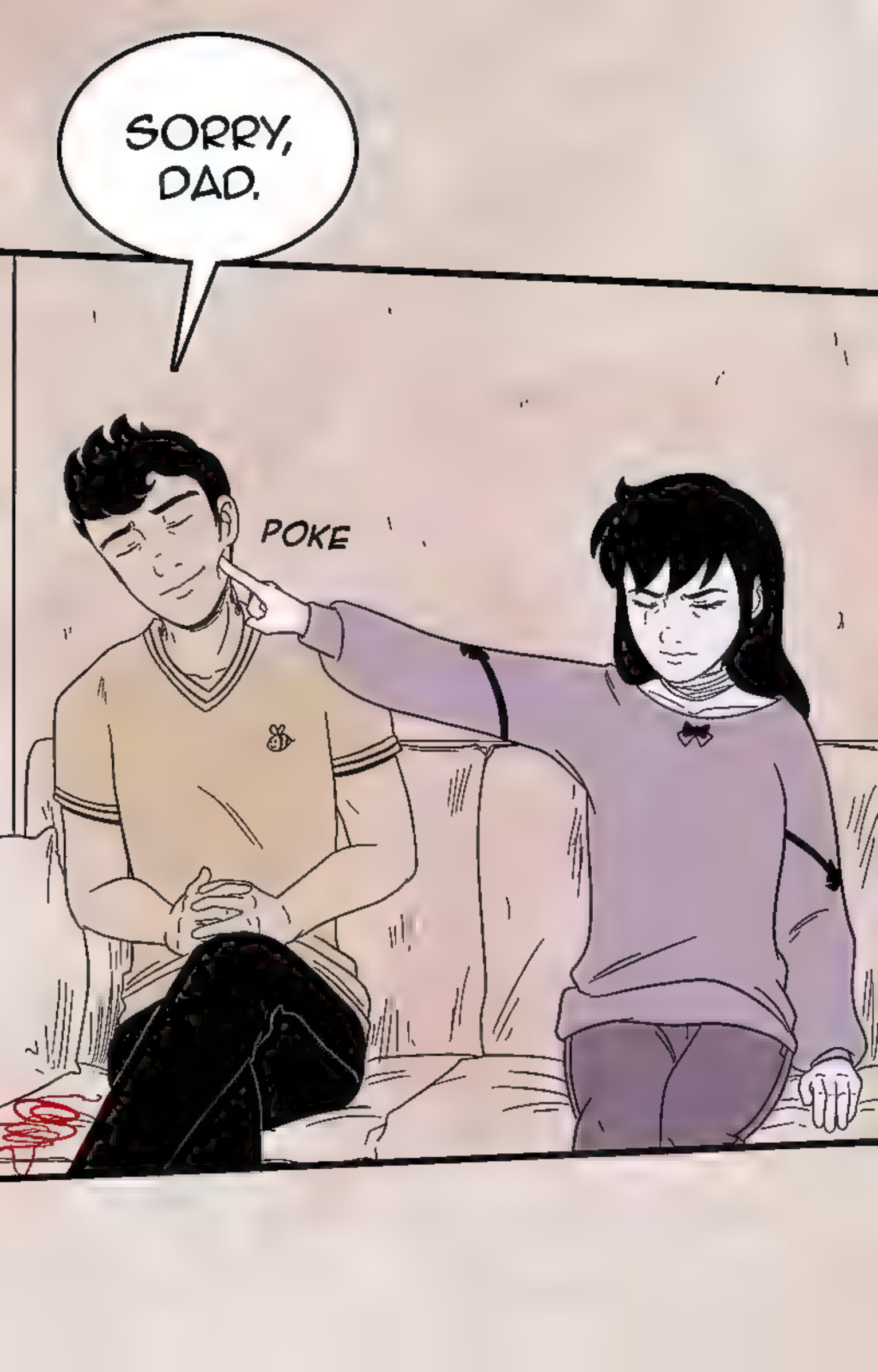
A SOCK MONKEY!

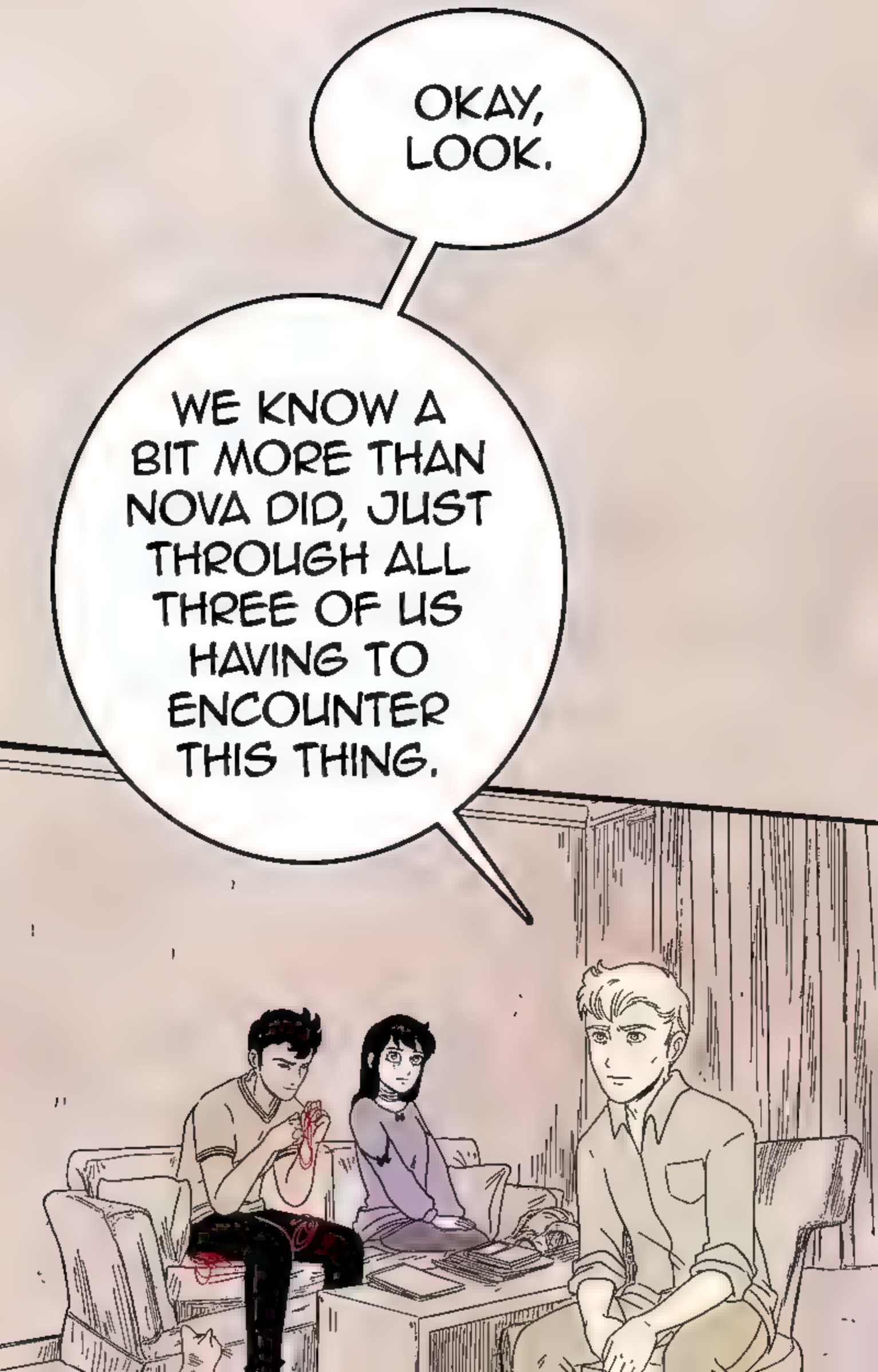
HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE CAT ONE?!

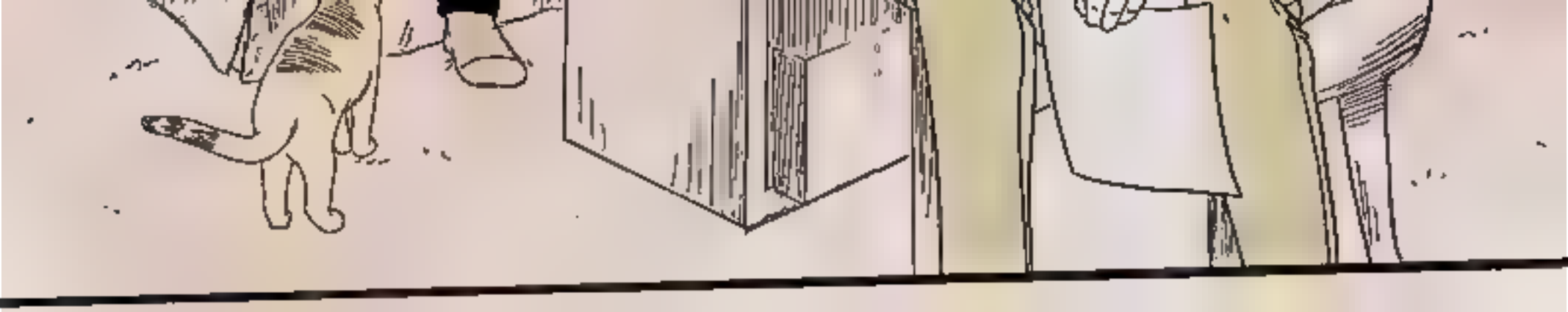
EVERYBODY KNOWS!

OKAY, SO...

THIS WOULD BE EASIER IF YOU GUYS *WEREN'T* BUSY BEING MORONS.


SORRY, DAD.
POKE


OKAY, LOOK.
WE KNOW A BIT MORE THAN NOVA DID, JUST THROUGH ALL THREE OF US HAVING TO ENCOUNTER THIS THING.



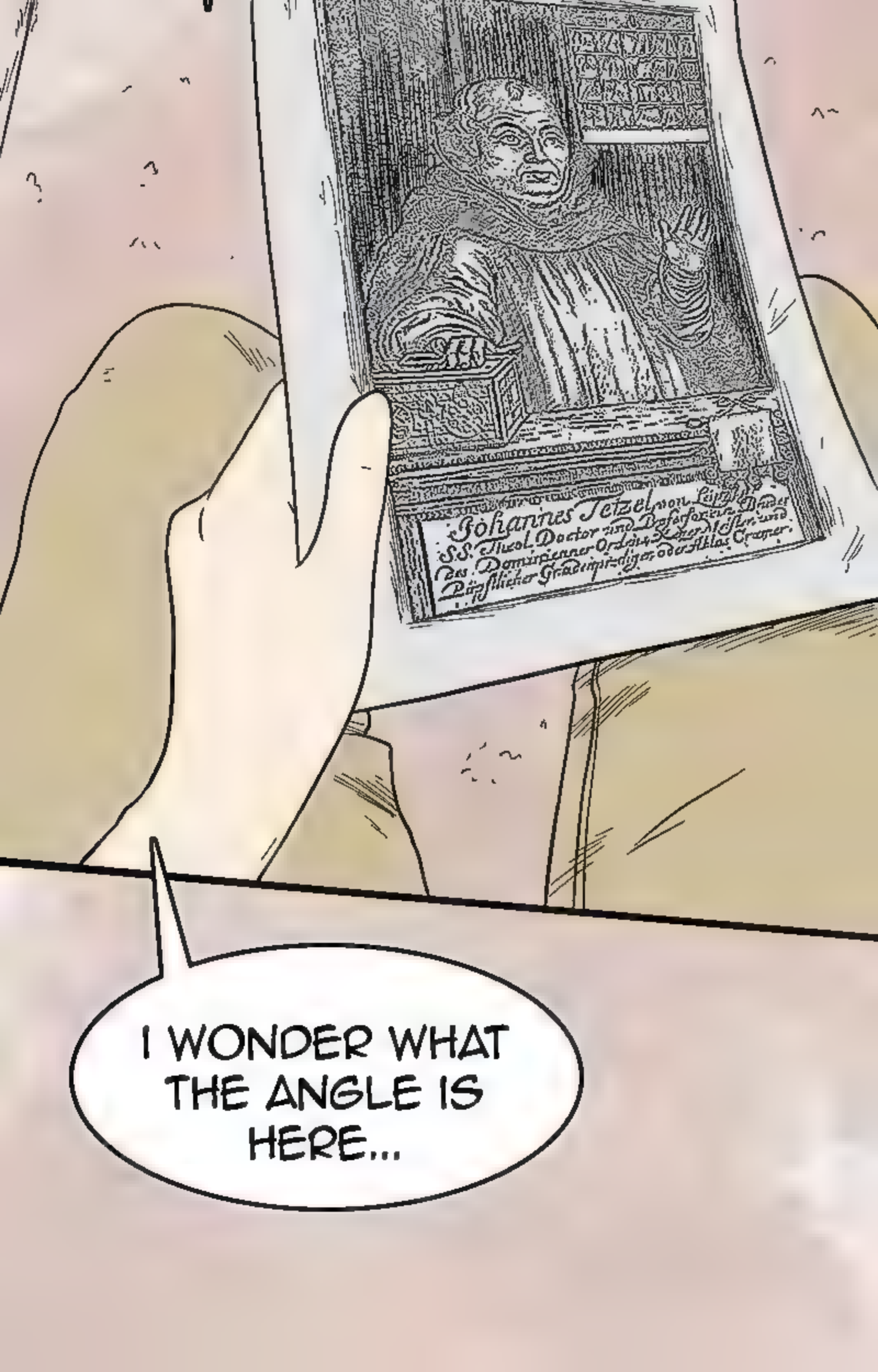
I SEARCHED HER NOTES AND I CAN'T FIND ANY MENTION OF THE MINES.

SO SHE LIKELY DIDN'T KNOW THEY EXIST.

BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THEY AREN'T CONNECTED SOMEHOW.

THE THING I'M MORE HUNG UP ON IS ALL THE RELIGIOUS ICONOGRAPHY.

I KEEP SEEING BITS OF IT IN NOVA'S NOTEBOOKS AND FILES.


Johannes Tetzel von Leipzig Bruder
S.S. Theol. Doctor und Professor
des Dominicaner Ordens Lehrer
Päpstlicher Gradumpredigter oder Atlas Cramer.
I WONDER WHAT THE ANGLE IS HERE...

WELL, SHE SAID SOMETHING BAD HAPPENED A LONG TIME AGO.
MAYBE IT WAS LIKE...A WITCH TRIAL? OR SOMETHING?

NO, I DON'T THINK SO, FRANKIE.

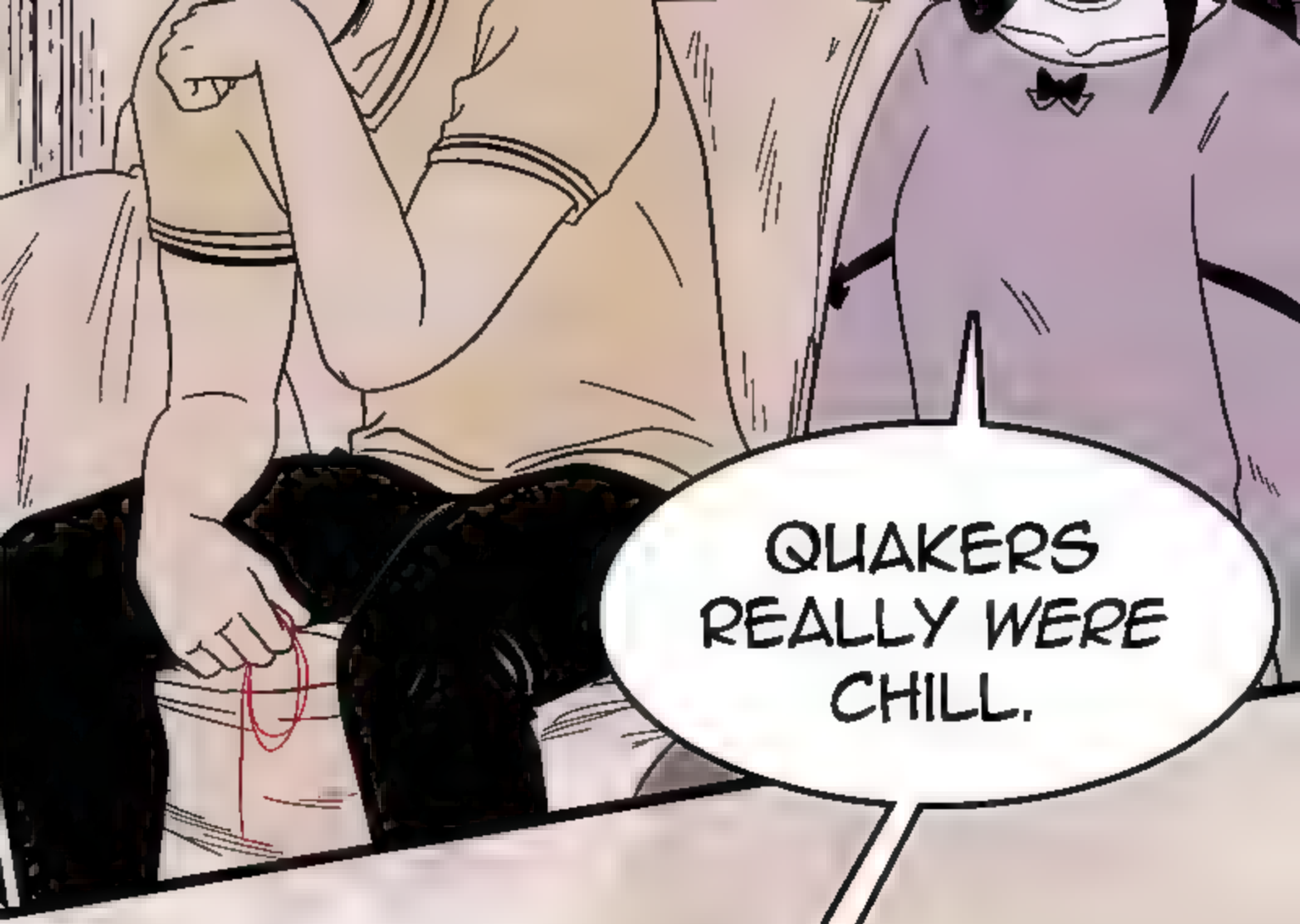
PENNSYLVANIA WAS A LOT MORE TOLERANT THAN SALEM OR OTHER PLACES.

THERE WAS ONLY EVER ONE WITCH TRIAL HERE AND THE ACCUSED WAS LET OFF WITH A FINE...

PLUS SHE GOT THE MONEY BACK LATER FOR GOOD BEHAVIOR.

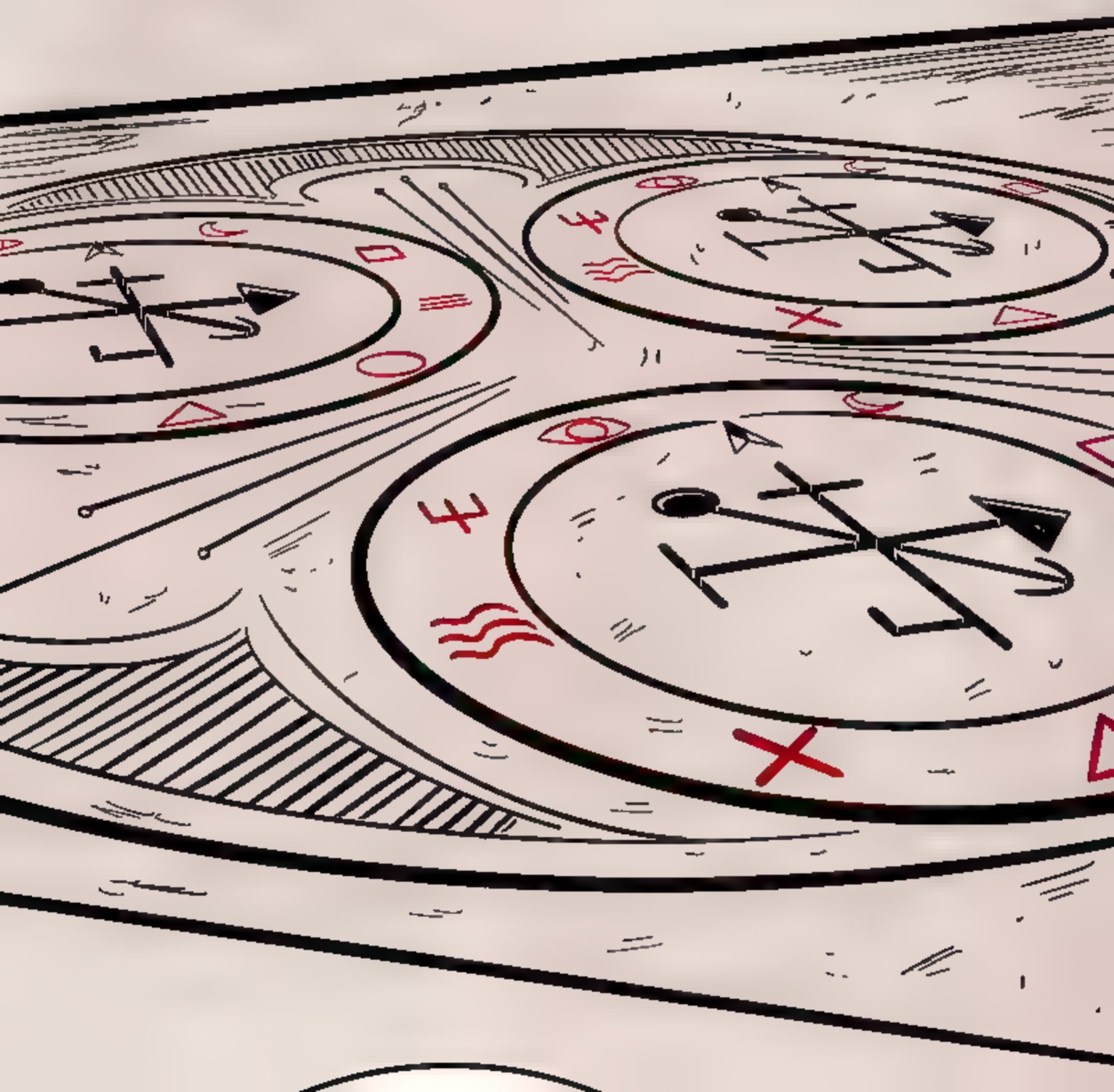
WILLIAM PENN HIMSELF JUDGED THE TRIAL. WHEN

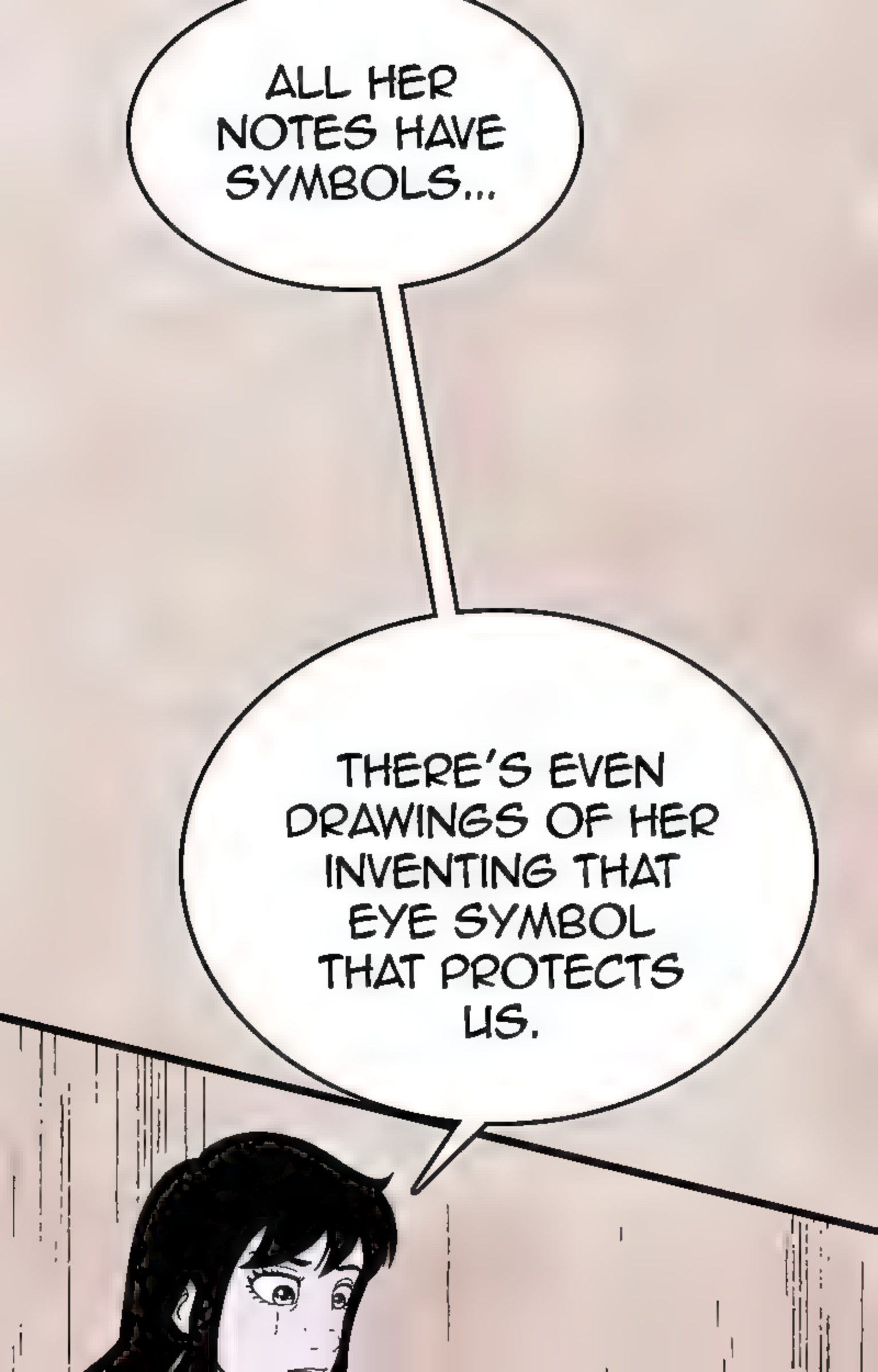
HE ASKED THE ACCUSED IF SHE COULD FLY ON A BROOM IN THE AIR...
...HE SAID, "THERE'S NO LAW AGAINST IT."
PFFFFF, HA HA HA!
DANG.



WELL, THEN WHY ALL THE SYMBOLS AND MYSTICAL WOO STUFF?

NOVA SEEMED OBSESSED WITH IT. THE CRYPT WAS COVERED IN THEM...



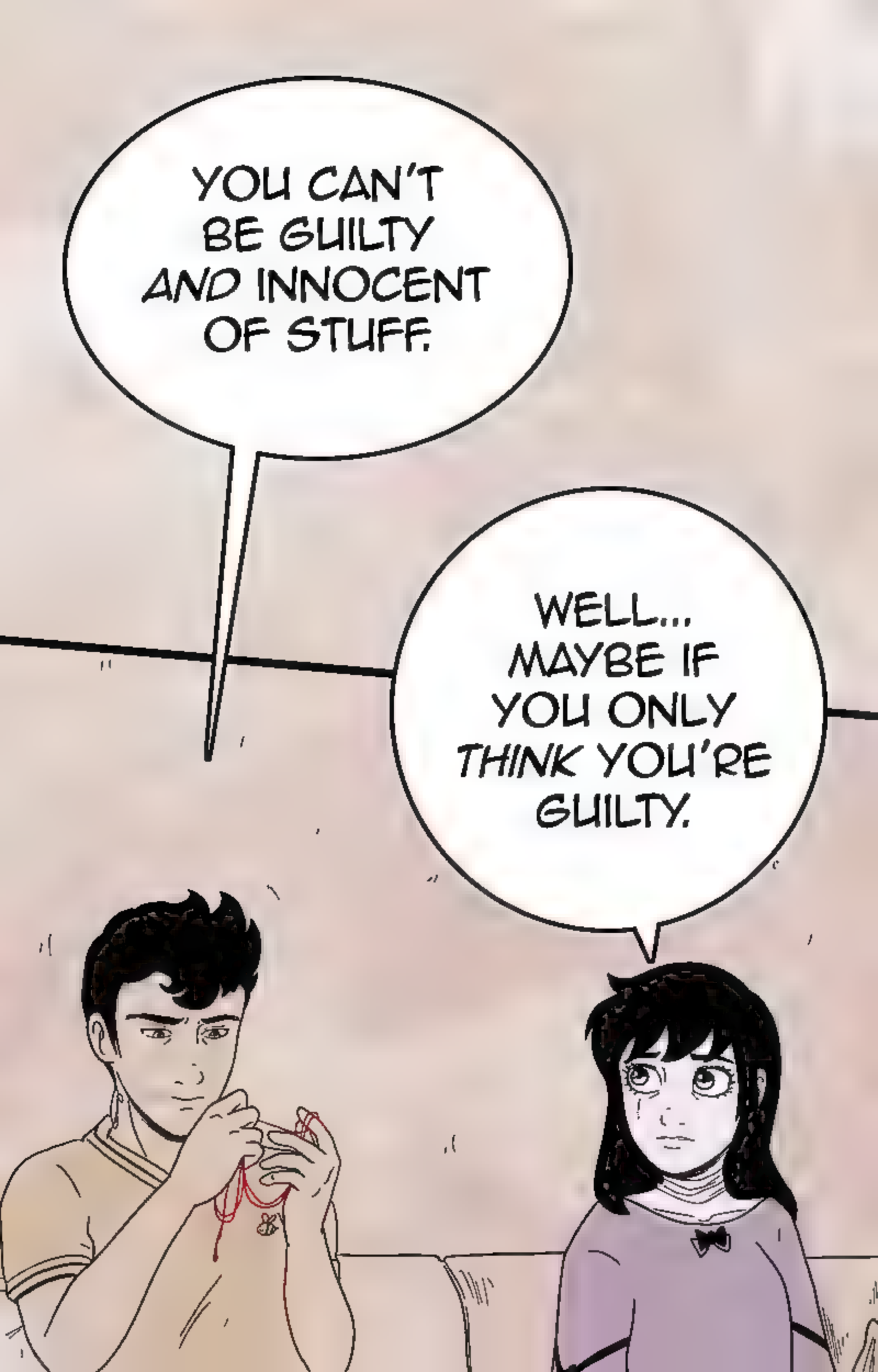

ALL HER NOTES HAVE SYMBOLS...
THERE'S EVEN DRAWINGS OF HER INVENTING THAT EYE SYMBOL THAT PROTECTS US.

LOOK, SHE EVEN WENT THROUGH SOME DRAFTS OF IT.

LIKE...SHE WAS TESTING TO FIGURE OUT WHICH ONE WORKED.

AND THE CAPTION: "GUILT HAUNTS AN INNOCENT SOUL."

WHAT?


YOU CAN'T BE GUILTY AND INNOCENT OF STUFF.
WELL... MAYBE IF YOU ONLY THINK YOU'RE GUILTY.

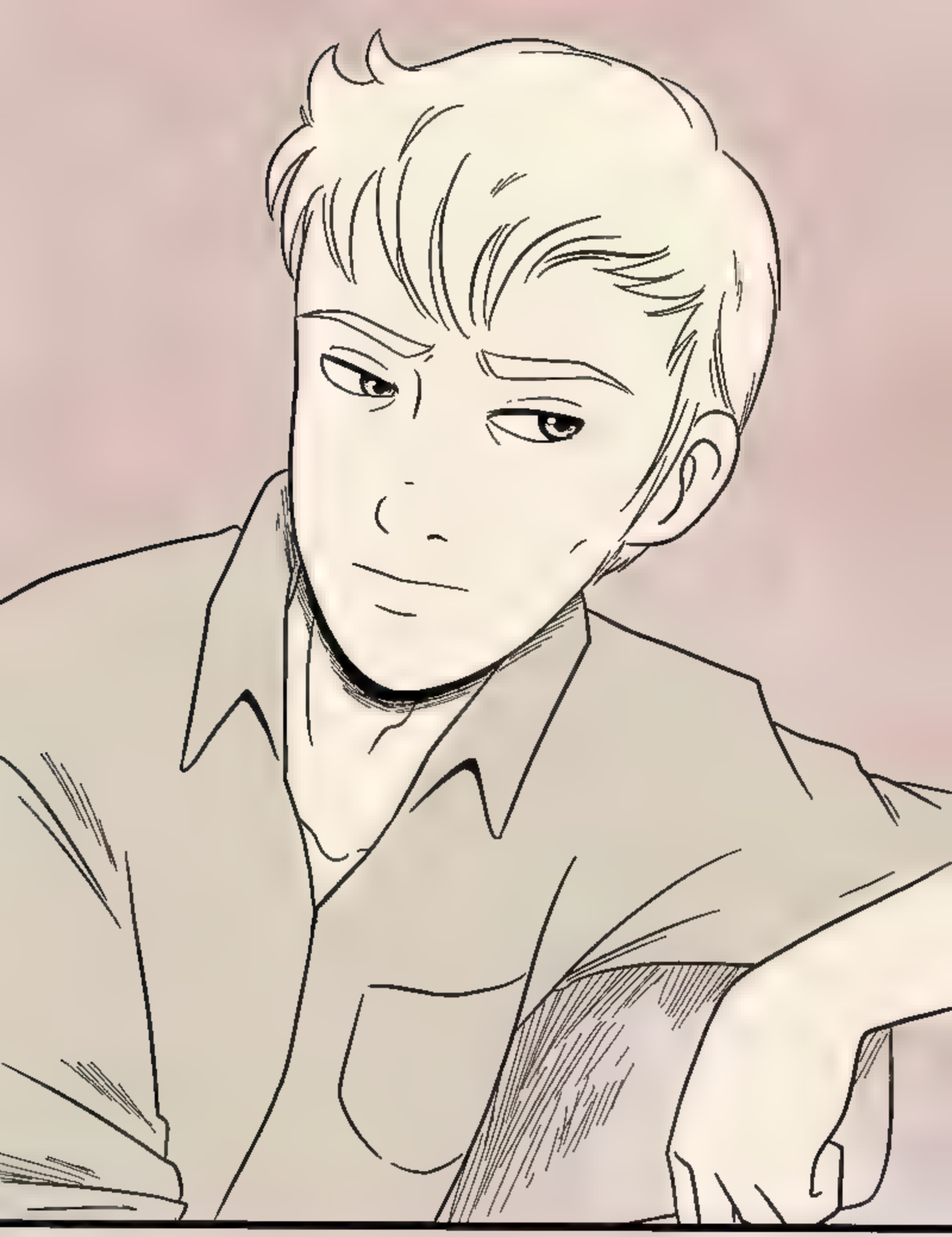
A LOT OF THIS NEW INFO IS CONFUSING WHAT WE KNOW.
WHAT DO WE KNOW?
UMMM...

A PATTERN IS EMERGING HERE.

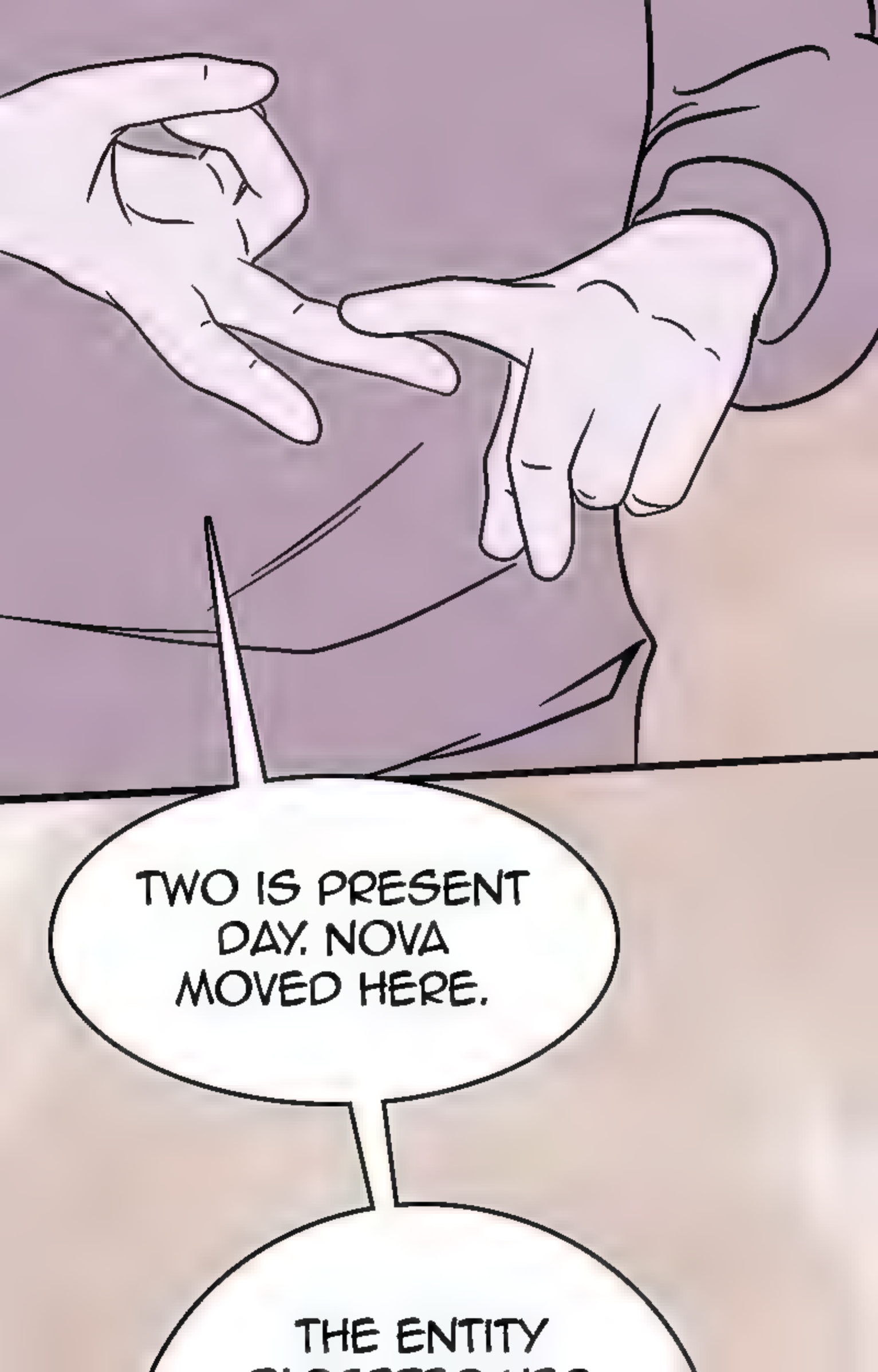
ONE: SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAPPENED IN THE PAST IN STAGTOWN.

BAD ENOUGH TO FEEL GUILTY ABOUT.

THE MINING COMPANY CAME TO TOWN...
...FOUND SOME... SOMETHING... UNDERGROUND...
...AND THEY RAN WITHOUT EVEN SALVAGING THEIR EQUIPMENT.



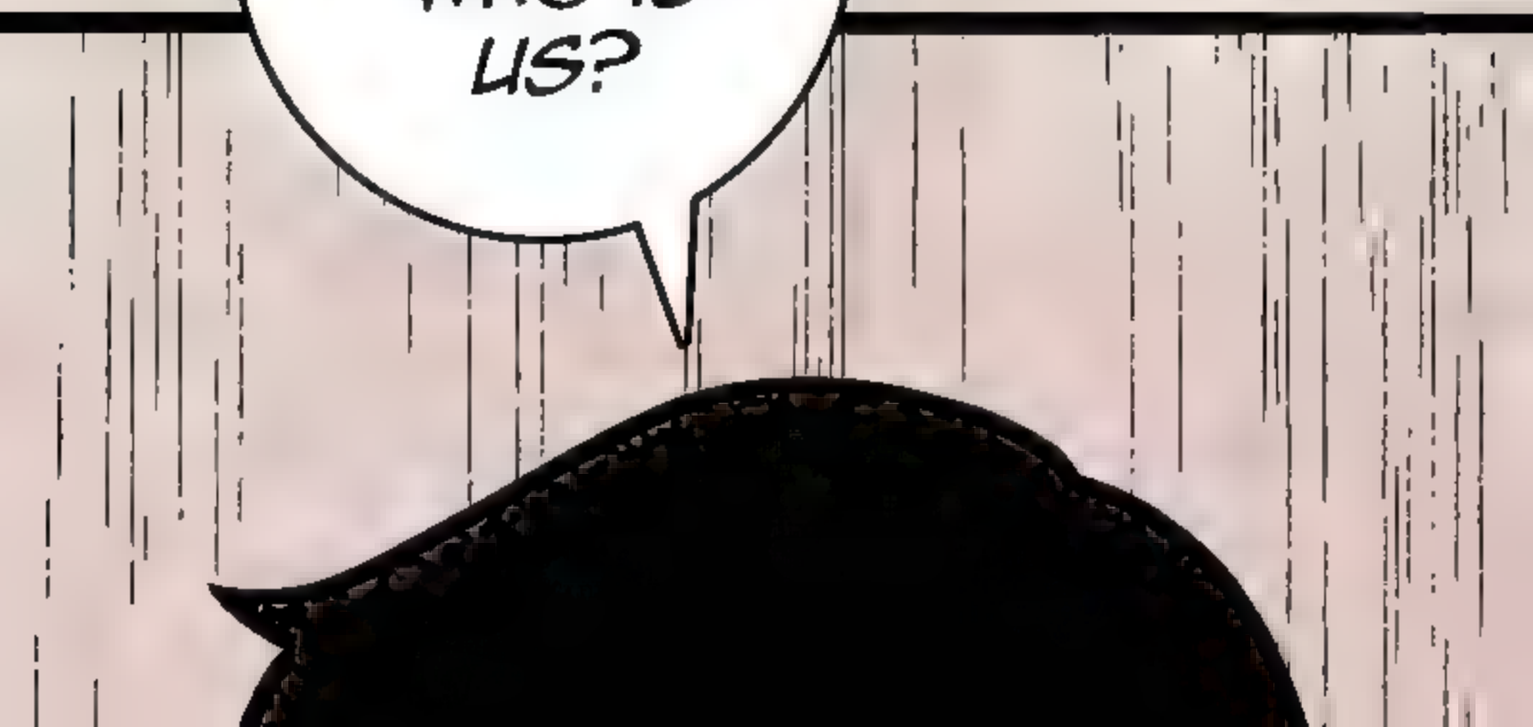
THEN THE CAROUSEL WAS BUILT, AND ABRUPTLY DISAPPEARED.
FELL INTO A HOLE.
FINE, IT *DISAPPEARED* DOWN A HOLE.
SO...

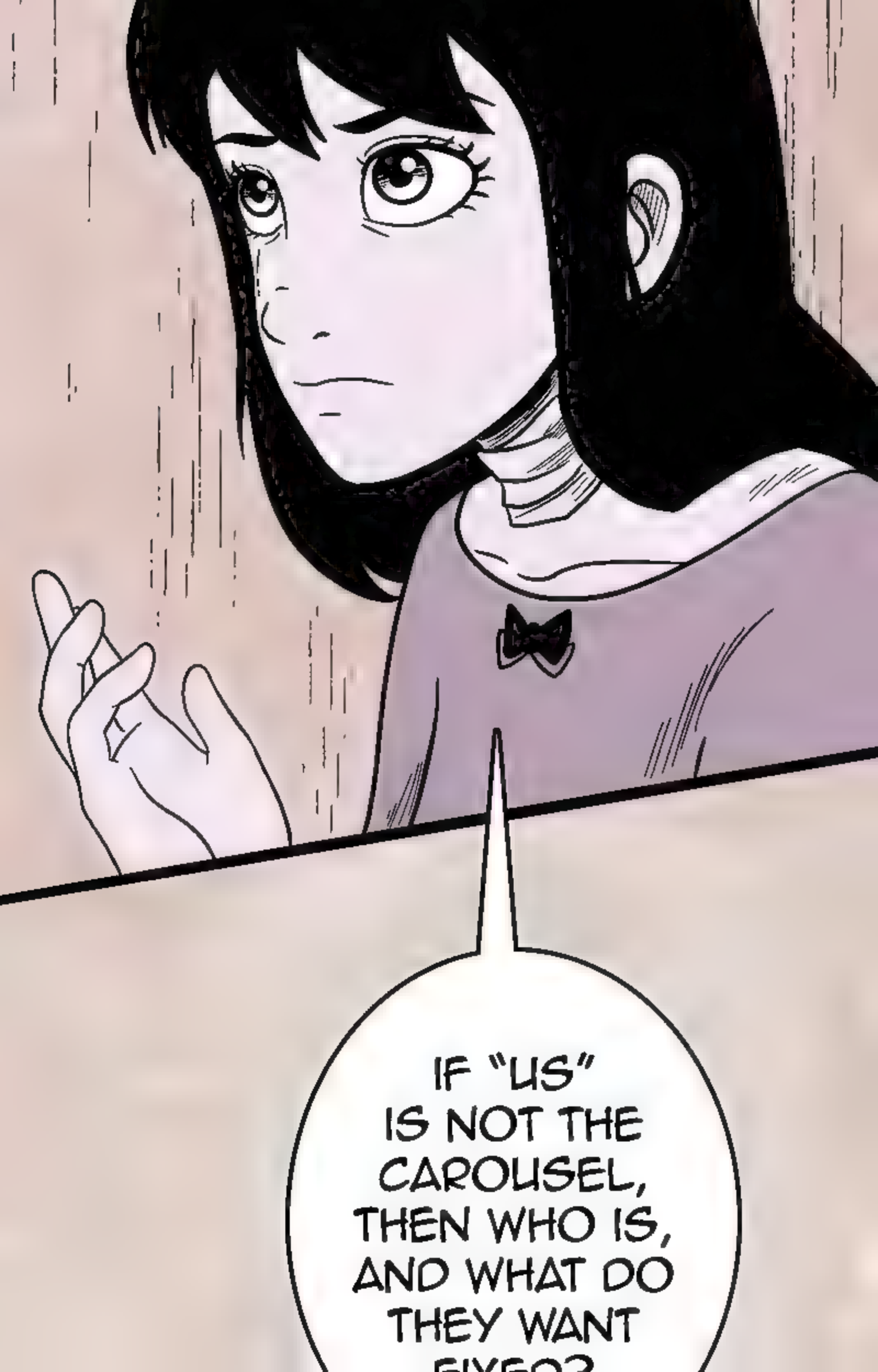

TWO IS PRESENT DAY. NOVA MOVED HERE.
THE ENTITY

TARGETED HER TO HELP "FIX" IT. SHE REFUSED, THEN GAVE UP AND TRIED TO "HELP."

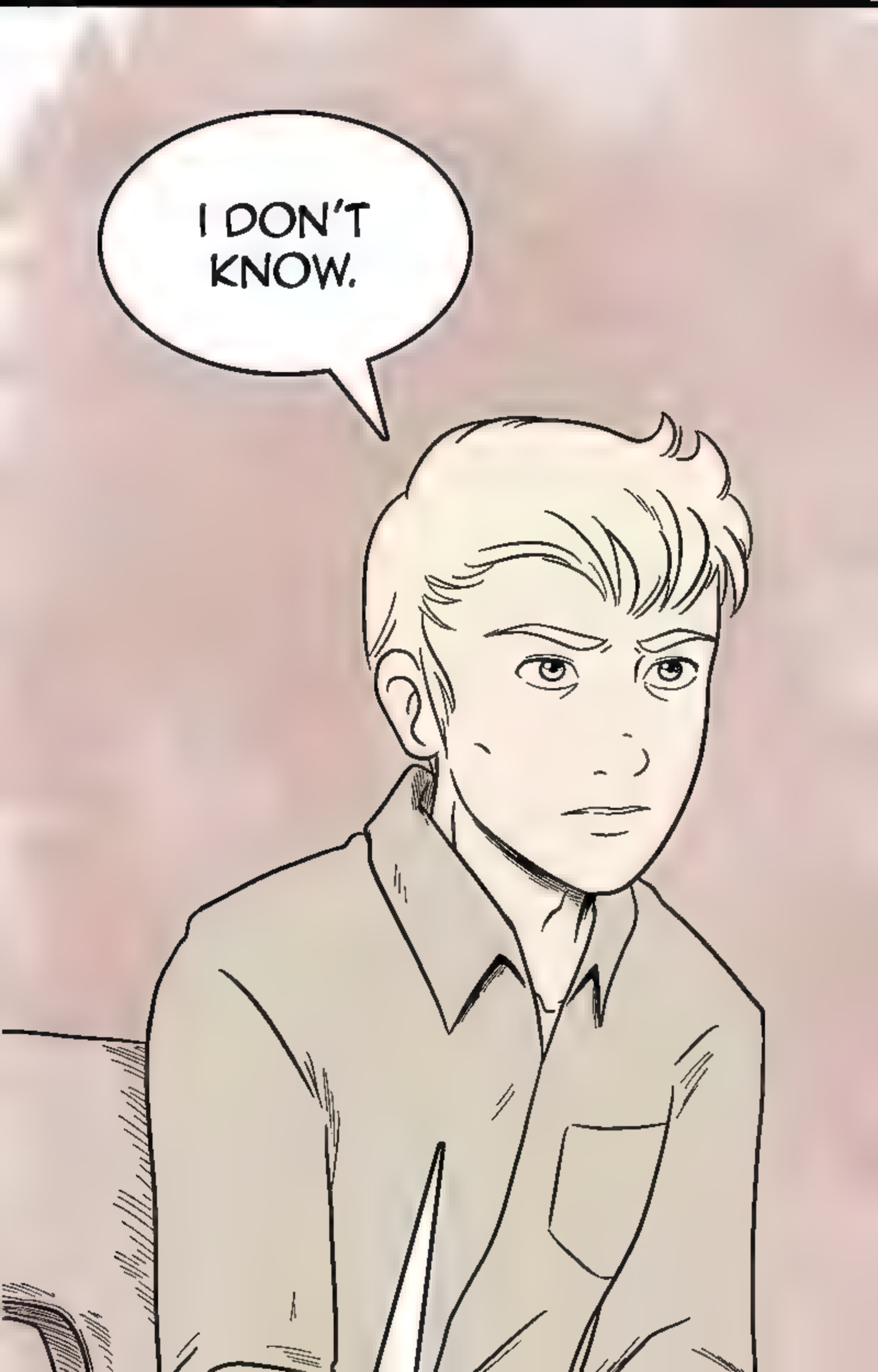
AND SHE DIED FOR IT.

IT SAID, "FIX US." WHO IS *US?*

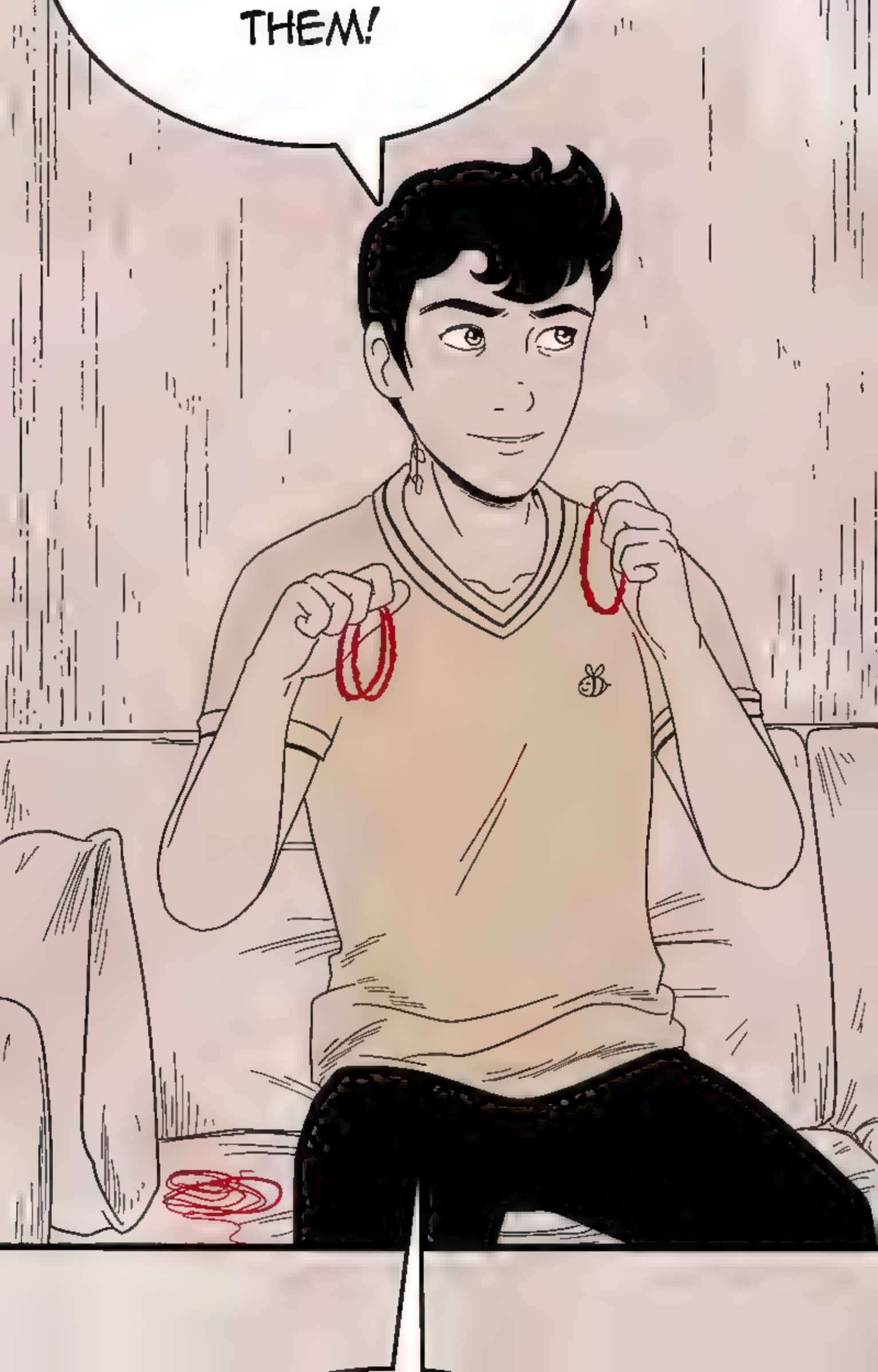


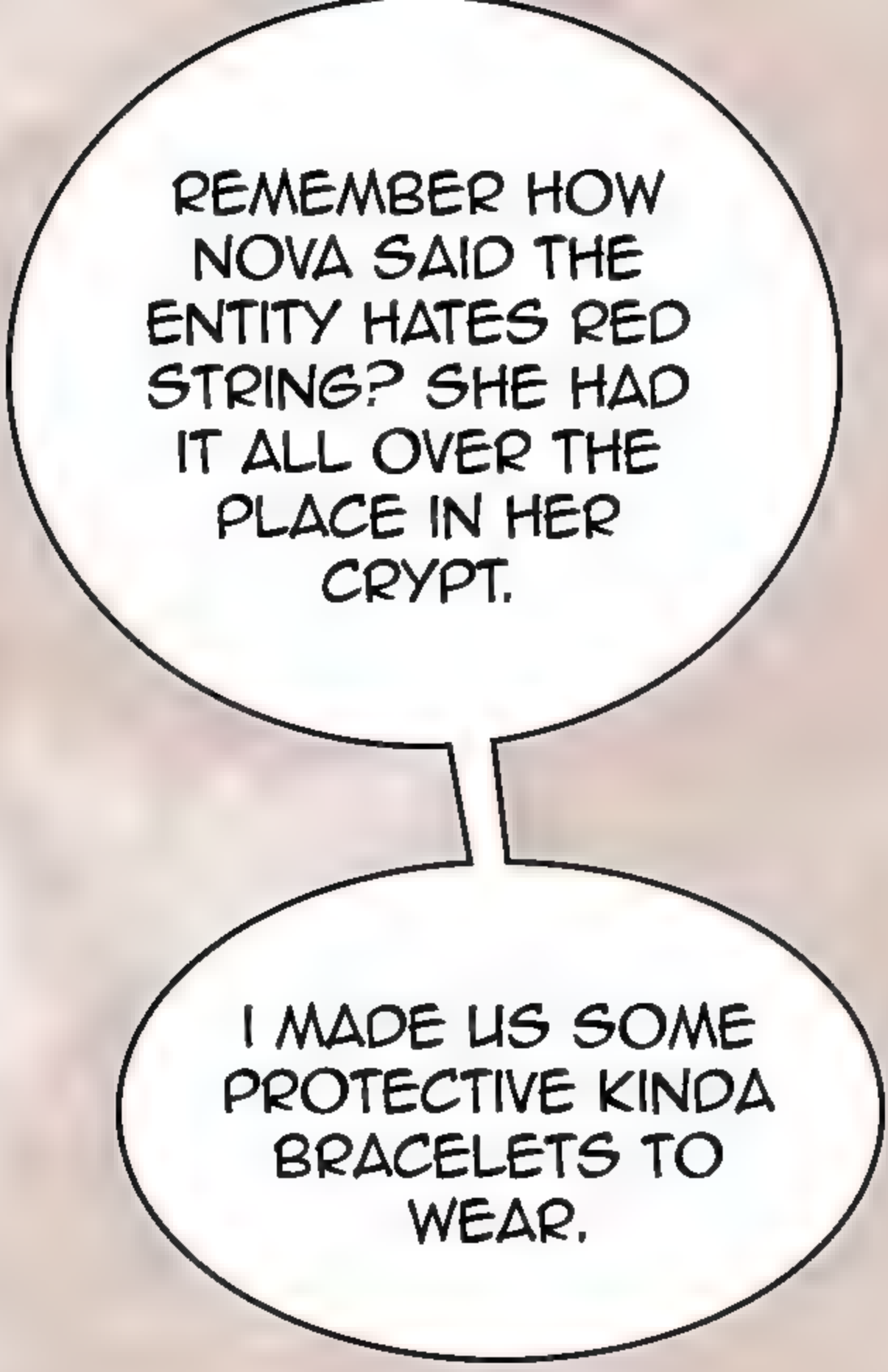

IF "US" IS NOT THE CAROUSEL, THEN WHO IS, AND WHAT DO THEY WANT

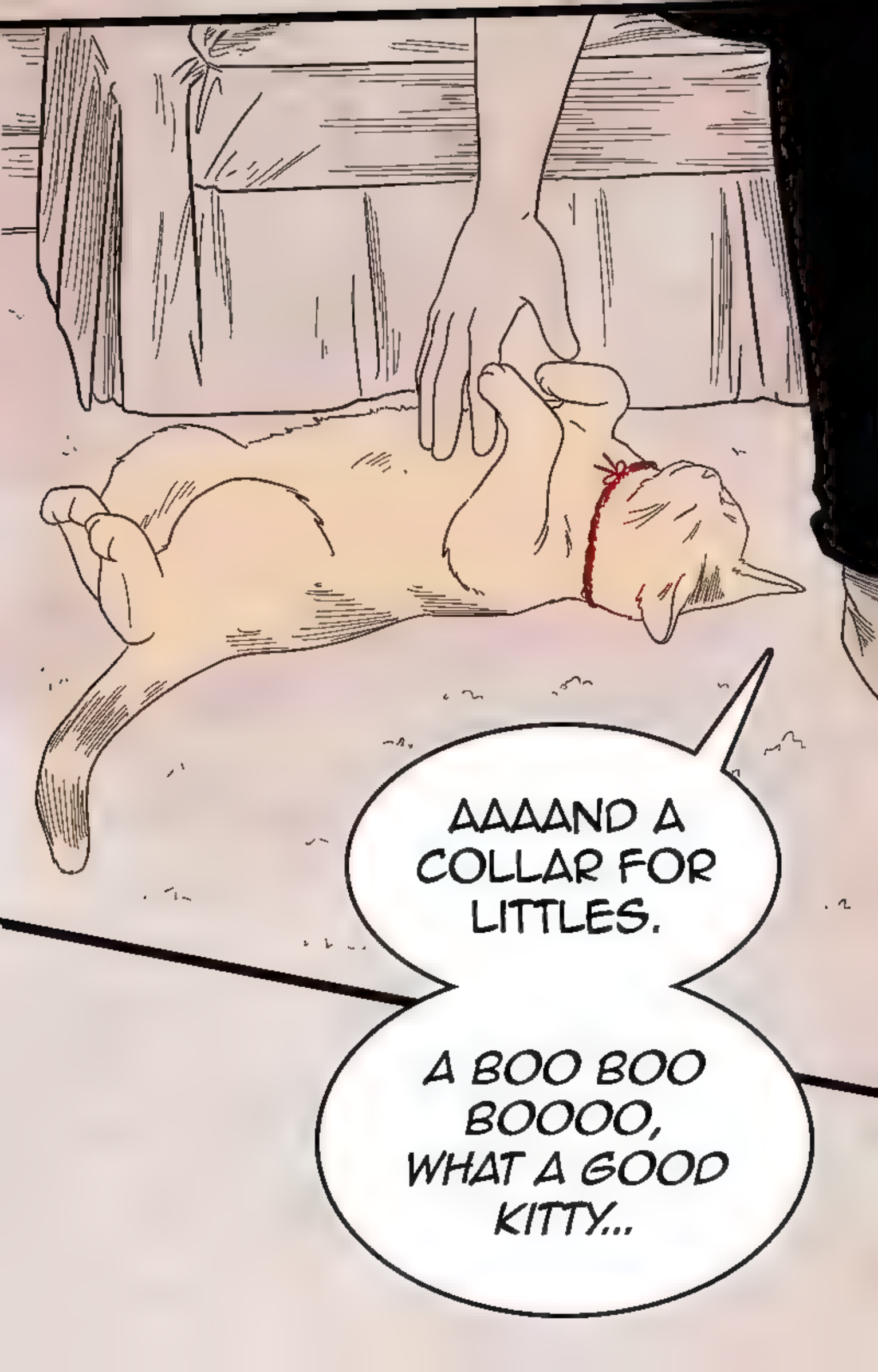
FIXED?


I DON'T KNOW.

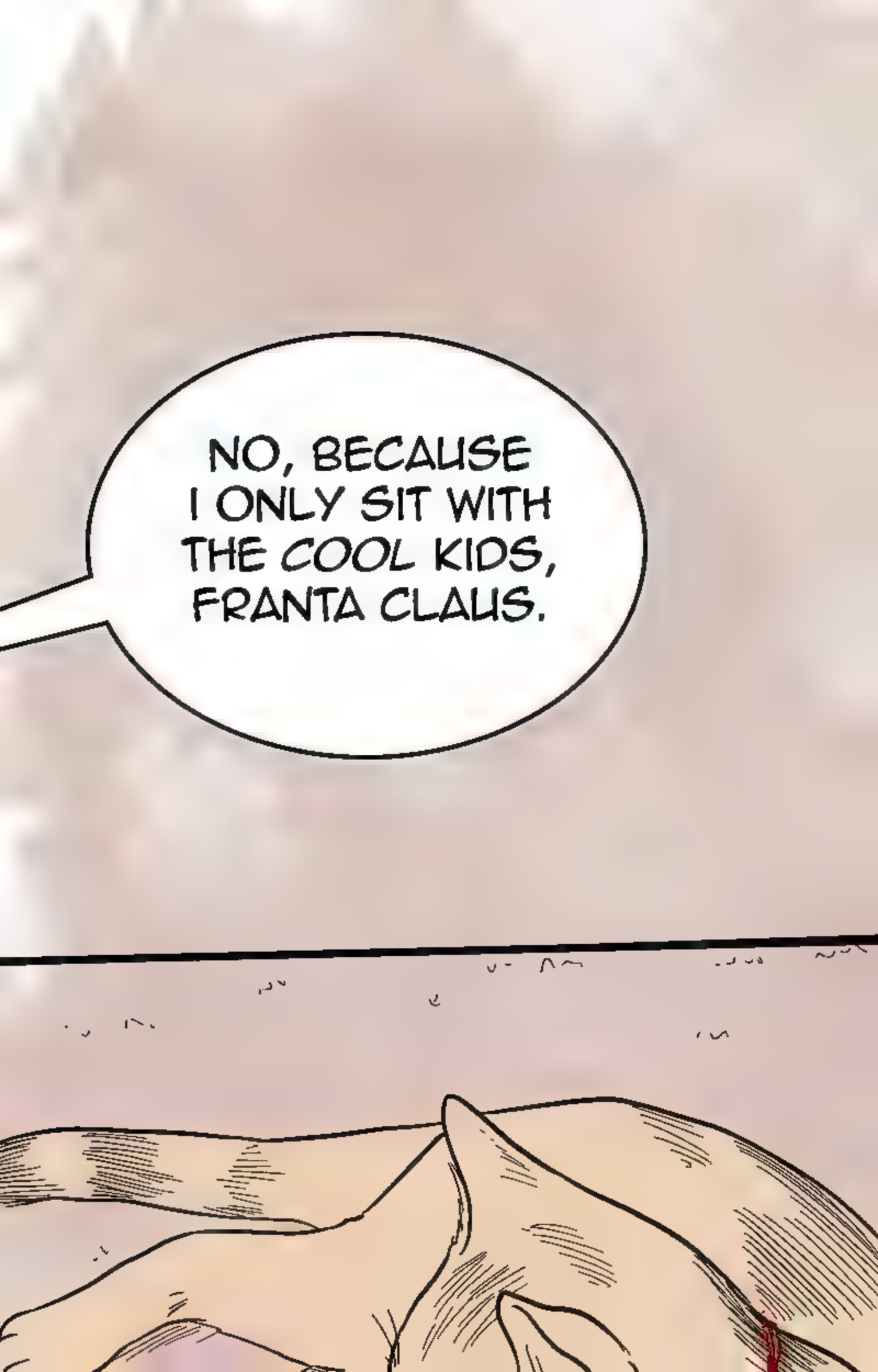
BUT WHEN NOVA FINALLY AGREED TO HELP, THEY KILLED HER FOR IT.
WE NEED TO BE MORE CAUTIOUS THAN EVER BEFORE.
I GOT YOUR CAUTIOUS RIGHT HERE, JUST FINISHED

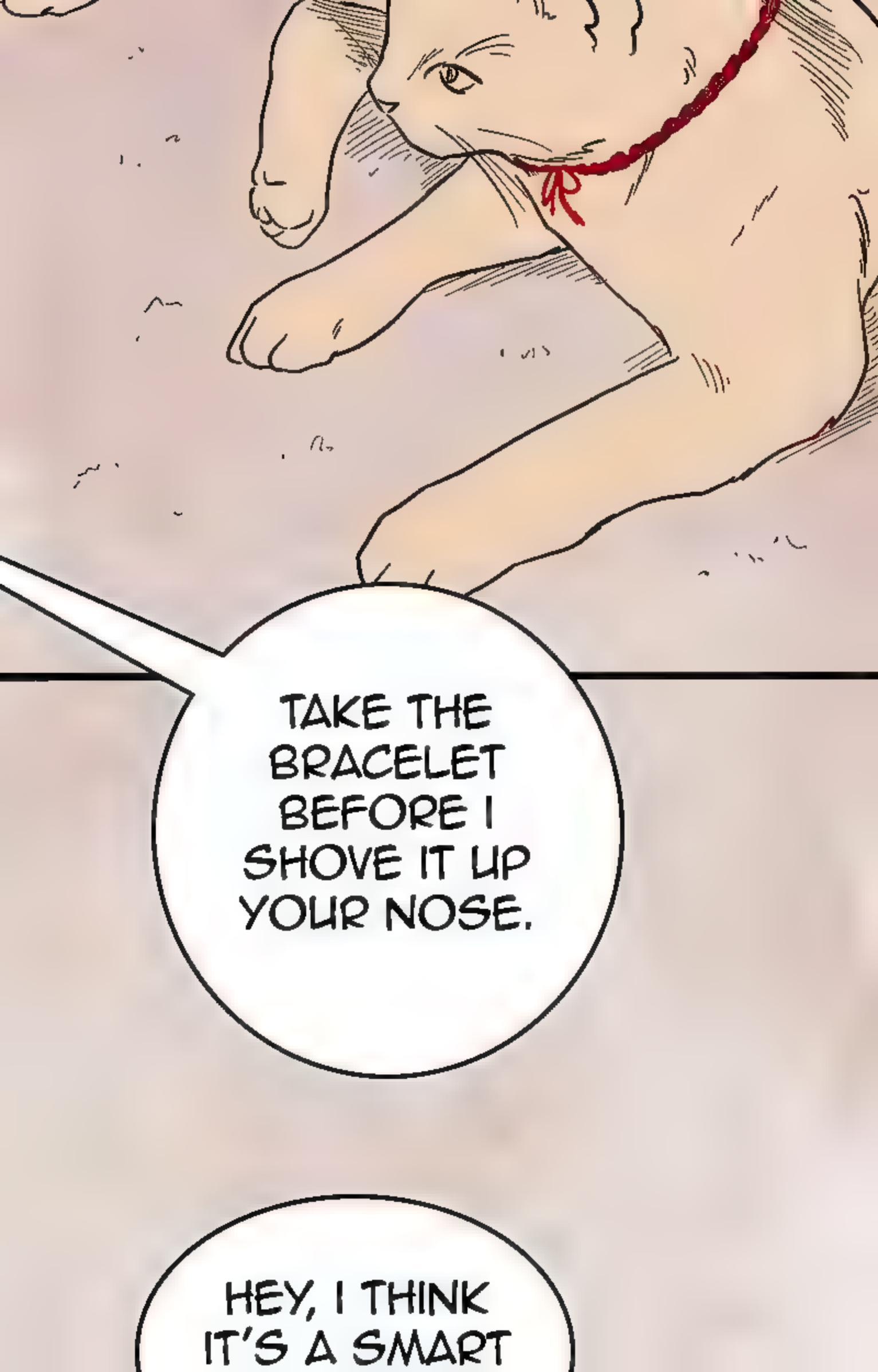

THEM!

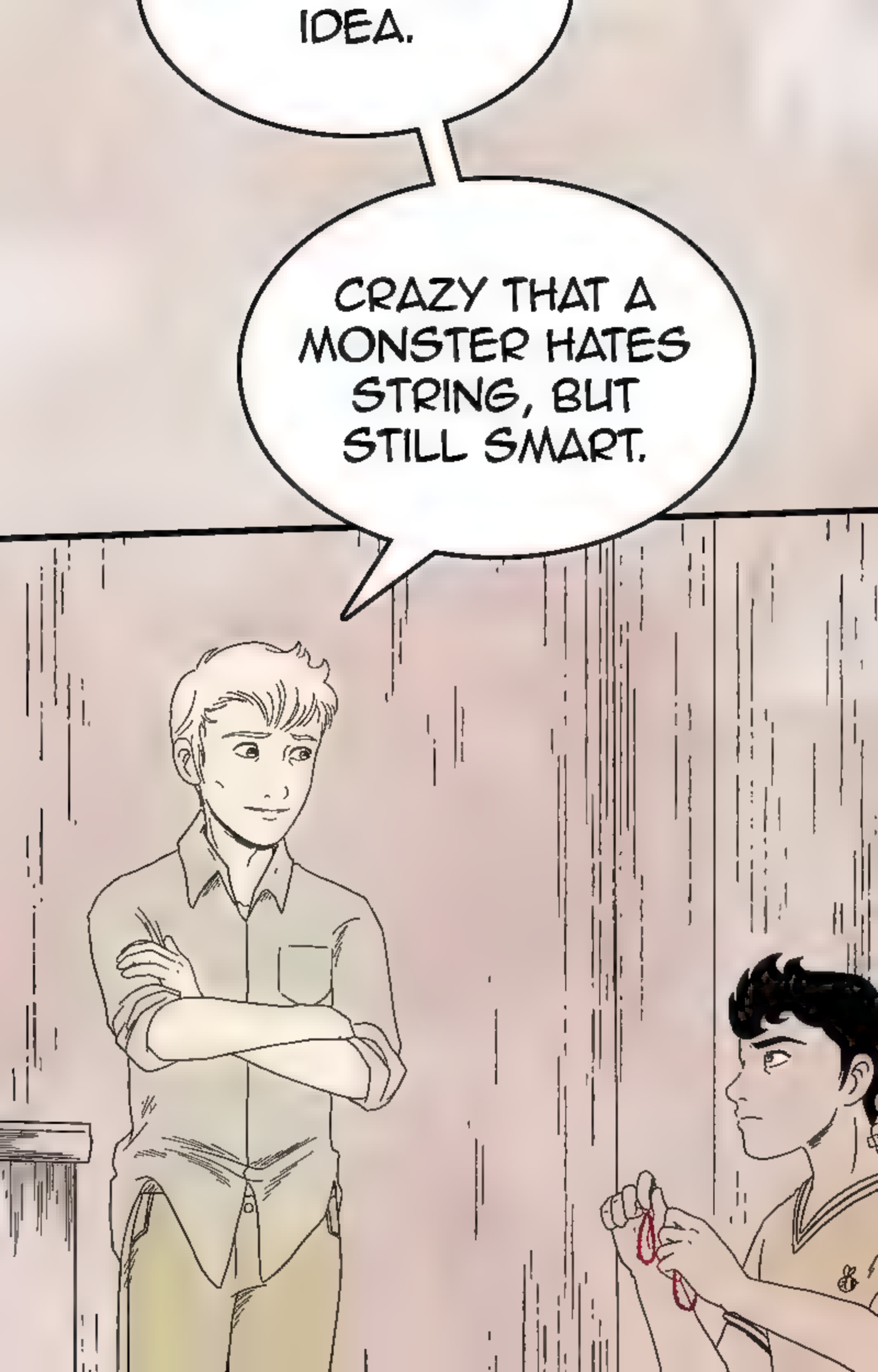

REMEMBER HOW NOVA SAID THE ENTITY HATES RED STRING? SHE HAD IT ALL OVER THE PLACE IN HER CRYPT.
I MADE US SOME PROTECTIVE KINDA BRACELETS TO WEAR.


AAAAND A COLLAR FOR LITTLES.
A BOO BOO BOOOO, WHAT A GOOD KITTY...

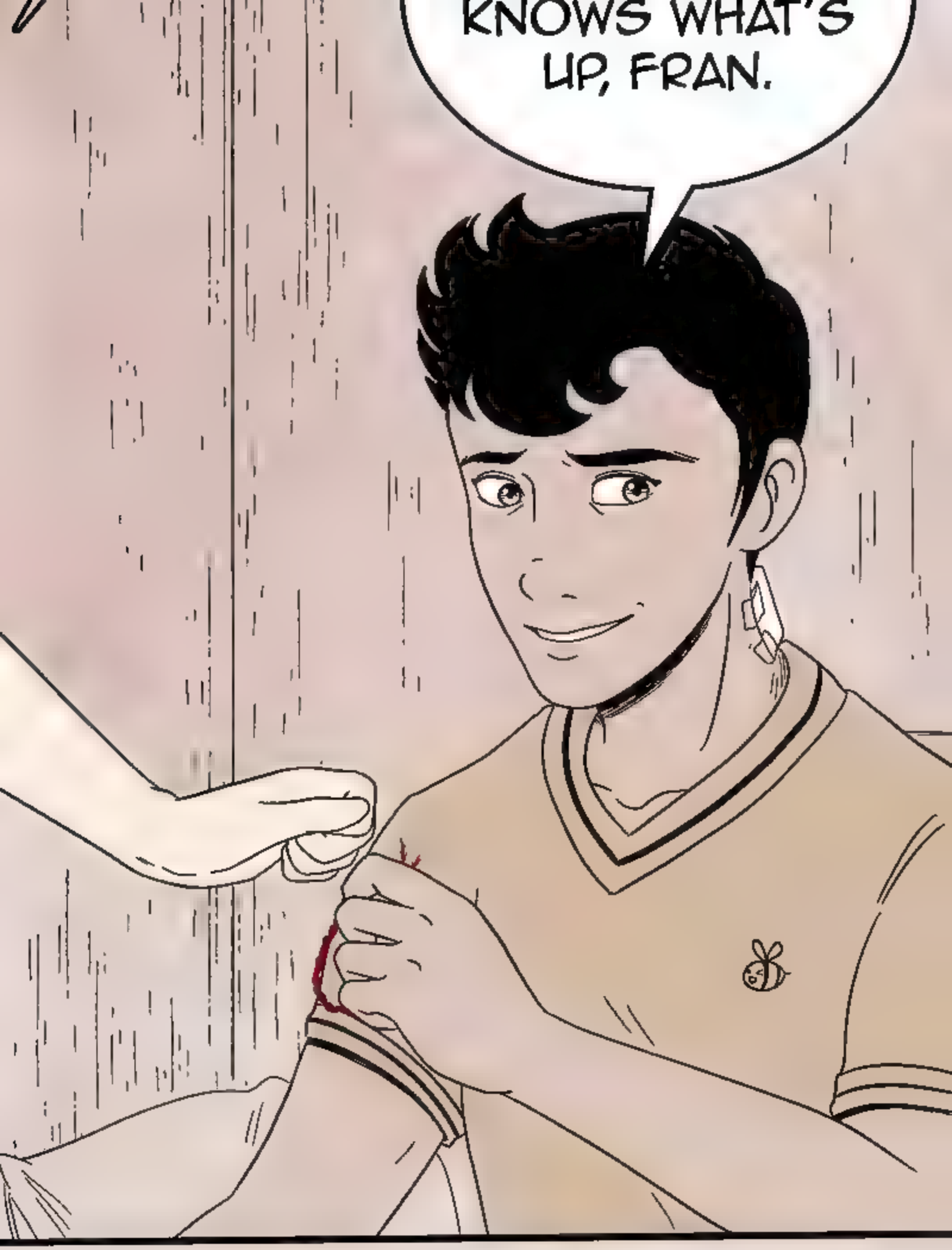
AWWW, FELIX! BFF BRACELETS!
CAN WE SIT TOGETHER IN STUDY PERIOD TOO?


NO, BECAUSE I ONLY SIT WITH THE *COOL* KIDS, FRANTA CLAUS.

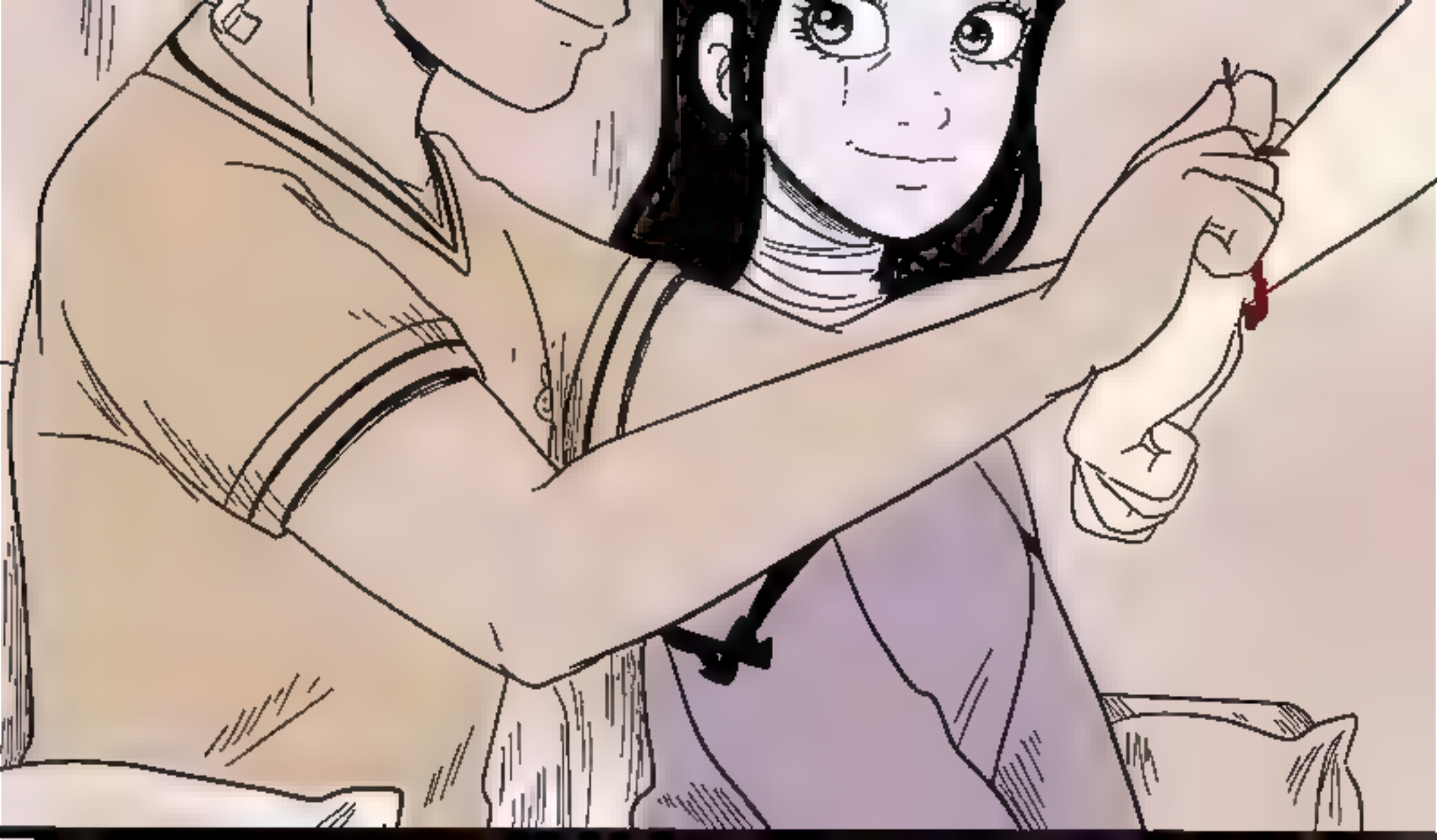

TAKE THE BRACELET BEFORE I SHOVE IT UP YOUR NOSE.
HEY, I THINK IT'S A SMART

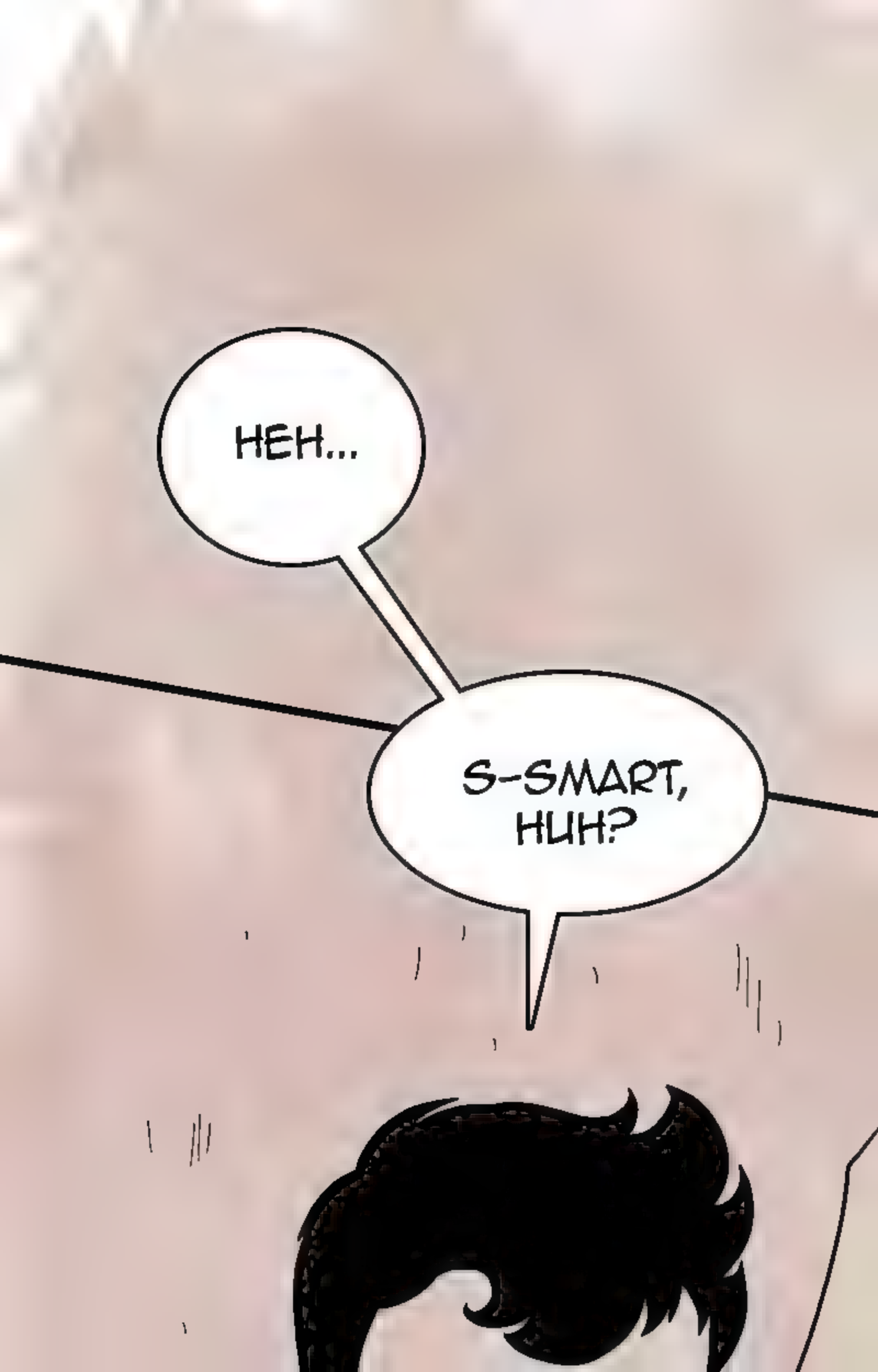

IDEA.
CRAZY THAT A MONSTER HATES STRING, BUT STILL SMART.

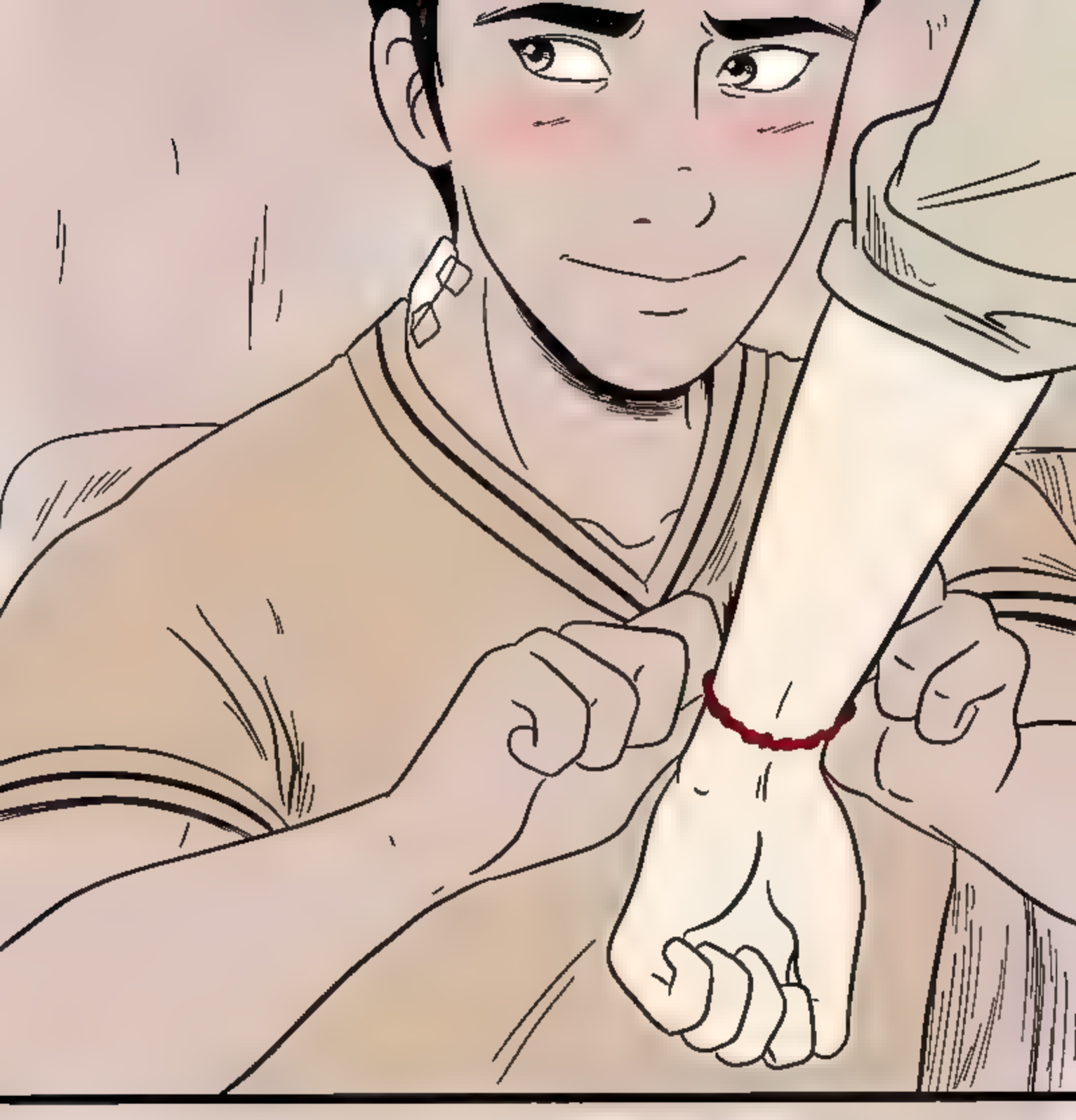
LAY IT ON ME, DUDE.
HA! SEE? MY MAN HERE

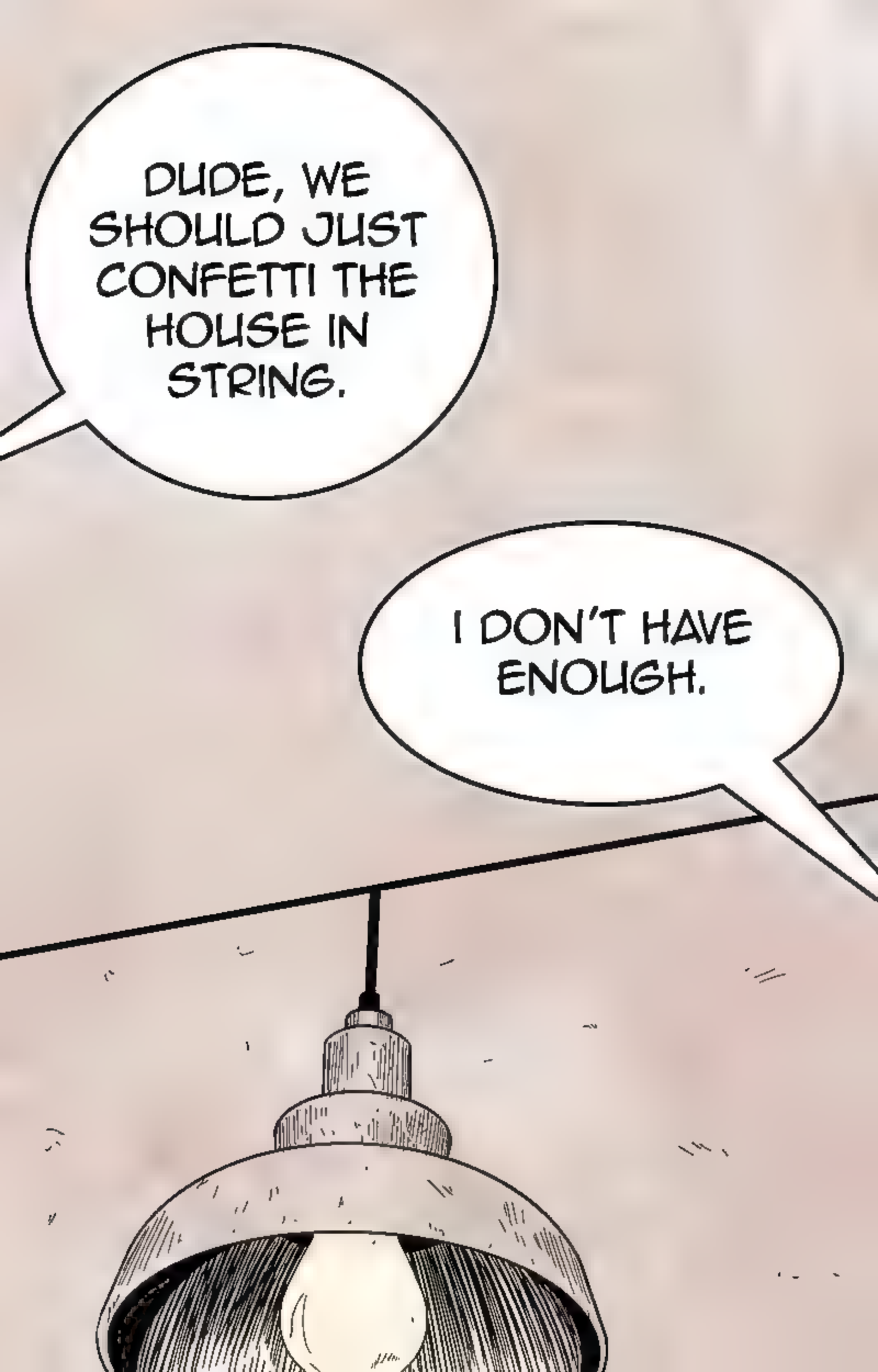

KNOWS WHAT'S UP, FRAN.

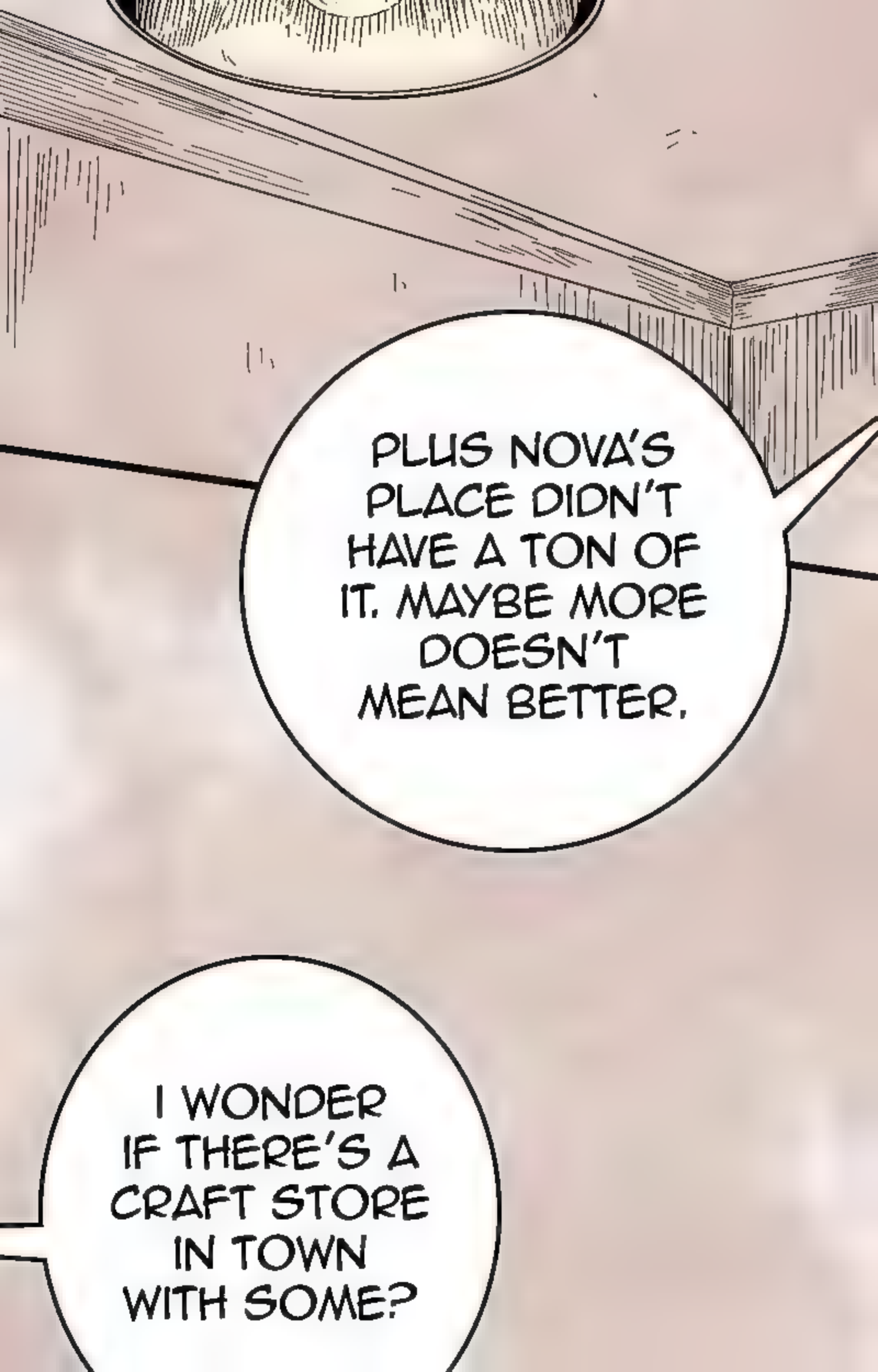
HA HA,
I KNOW.
LOOK AT
YOU AND YOUR
SMART IDEAS.
NICE JOB.

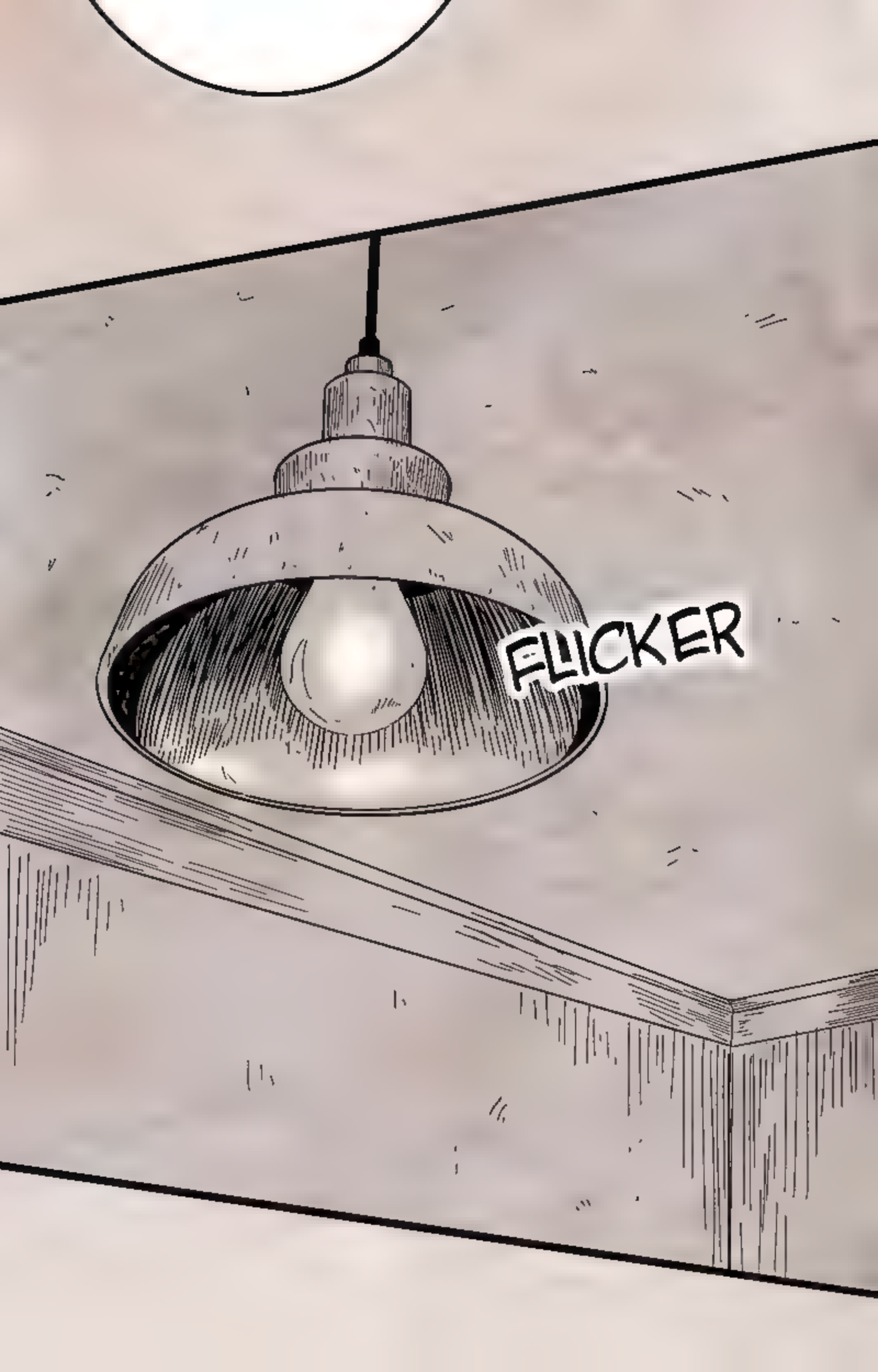



HEH...
S-SMART, HUH?




DUDE, WE SHOULD JUST CONFETTI THE HOUSE IN STRING.
I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH.


PLUS NOVA'S PLACE DIDN'T HAVE A TON OF IT. MAYBE MORE DOESN'T MEAN BETTER.
I WONDER IF THERE'S A CRAFT STORE IN TOWN WITH SOME?


FLICKER

HEY, GUYS?
DID YOU SEE THE LIGHTS GO OFF FOR A MOME-

ZZZZ

AAHH!

WHAT HAPPENED?!

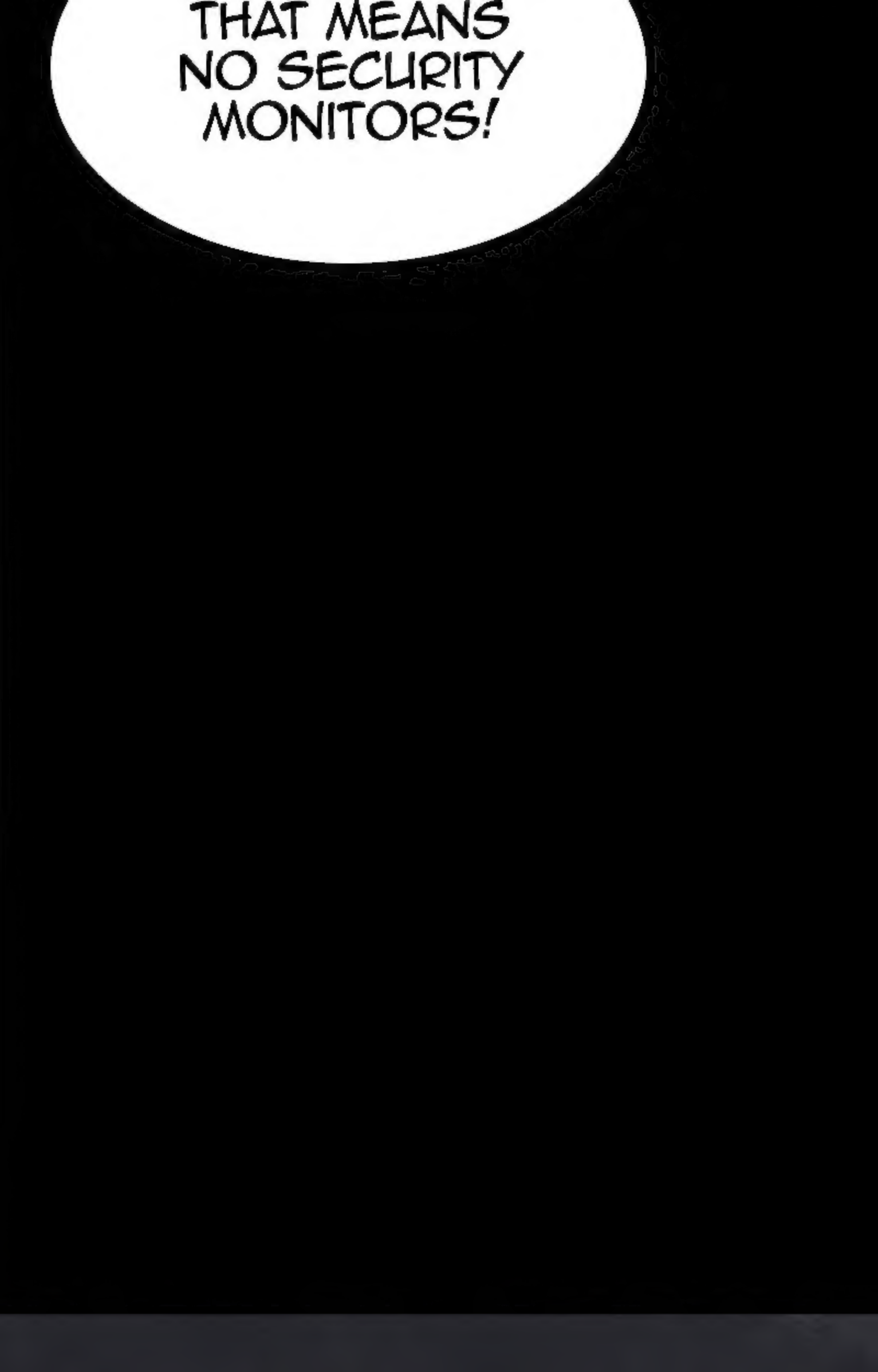
THE LIGHTS WON'T TURN ON!
CLICK
CLICK

IT'S A POWER OUTAGE!
WHAT, NOW?

THERE ISN'T EVEN ANY RAIN, OR WIND!
IS IT JUST US, OR ALL THE OTHER BUILDINGS?
WAIT!

GUYS, THE SURVEILLANCE STUFF!

WE'VE GOT NO POWER!


THAT MEANS
NO SECURITY
MONITORS!

W-WE'RE BLIND...